

White House denies summit report

JUPITER, Florida (R) — The White House denied a report on Wednesday that President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will hold a summit meeting in Germany in June. "No summit has been scheduled," said Deputy White House Press Secretary Stephen Hart. "We would like to have a summit some time in the first half of the year," said Mr. Hart, who stressed that no date had been set. Mr. Hart was travelling with Mr. Bush, who was wrapping up a four-day holiday in Florida before returning to Washington late Wednesday. Earlier Wednesday, the German newspaper Bild reported that Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev would meet in Berlin in mid-June. Bild said the two men would hold a separate meeting during a gathering of heads of government from the 34 member states of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSC). Bild said the CSC leaders would meet on June 17-20. Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev had been scheduled to meet in Moscow last February but the meeting was delayed because of the Gulf war and problems with finishing a treaty on the reduction of strategic arms.



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U.N. endorses ceasefire resolution

Iraq's military potential to be stripped, part of oil revenues to be used for reparations, border with Kuwait to be guaranteed

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council approved a Gulf ceasefire resolution Wednesday ordering Iraq to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction, impounding part of its oil revenues to pay reparations and paving the way for the withdrawal of U.S. occupation troops.

The U.S.-initiated draft was endorsed by a vote of 12 in favour of one against, with Cuba casting the lone negative vote. There were two abstentions, by Yemen and Ecuador.

Cuba and Yemen opposed or abstained on many of the 13 previous resolutions adopted by the council following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August, including a decision last November authorising war against Iraq.

The 3,900-word resolution, the longest and most detailed in council history, also maintains sanctions against Iraq's imports until further notice, except for food and other essential items, and guarantees a 1963 border between Iraq and Kuwait that Baghdad still disputes.

Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari said the Security Council proposal reached too far,

"The Security Council has never before imposed borders that were not finalised," he said. "It is an infringement upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq."

The resolution calls on Iraq and Kuwait to respect their mutual border as agreed upon in a 1963 treaty signed by both sides. But Mr. Anbari said the treaty was never ratified by the Iraqi parliament.

Mr. Anbari also said Iraq should not be singled out for arms reductions in the tense region.

He added that Iraq had suffered greatly during the Gulf war because its opponents in the allied coalition were beyond their U.N. mandate to free Kuwait.

"Was returning Iraq to a pre-industrial state" one of the objectives of the resolution? he was asked, referring to the recent United Nations report on the effects of war on Iraq.

He said Iraq deserved the right to ask for reparations for losses incurred because of excess on the part of its opponents.

"America and its allies should bear the full responsibility for their excesses in the operations," he said.

"The new world order is the order of the American authority over all the world," he added.

The resolution requires Iraq to accept the removal or destruction under international supervision of all

chemical and biological weapons and nuclear-weapons-useable material, as well as all ballistic missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres, like the Scuds used to bombard Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Once the Security Council is satisfied Iraq's "offensive" potential has been neutralised, its sanctions on Iraqi exports — mostly oil — will be lifted.

But a percentage of the oil revenues is to be funnelled into a U.N.-administered fund to meet claims by governments, companies and individuals harmed by Iraq's invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

The precise percentage of revenues to be earmarked for the fund will be determined by the council, taking into account Iraq's existing debt commitments, its capacity to pay and the requirements of the Iraqi people.

When Baghdad says it accepts all provisions of the nine-page draft, a formal ceasefire will replace the present month-long suspension of hostilities between Iraq and the U.S.-led coalition.

This would clear the way for the despatch of U.N. observers to patrol a zone extending 10 kilometres into Iraq and five kilometres into Kuwait.

The United States will then be able to withdraw some 100,000 troops now occupying a swathe of southern Iraq.

Their presence on the sidelines as the Iraqi government snuffs out rebellions by Kurds and Shiite Muslims is a political liability for Washington and its allies.

The resolution, the 14th adopted since Iraq's invasion last August, was sponsored by the United States, Britain, France and Romania, joined later by Belgium and Zaire.

It requires Baghdad to cooperate with the International Red Cross in the repatriation of Kuwaitis and other missing foreigners and pledge not to support "international terrorism" or allow "terrorist" organisations to operate on its territory.

The resolution places an unprecedented economic and military stranglehold on Iraq, prompting some critics to compare it with the draconian provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, imposed on Germany after World War I.

Supporters of the draft call it a fair but firm means of ensuring that Iraq compensates those who suffered as a result of its invasion of Kuwait and is prevented from any repetition of its invasion.

While intervening deeply in Iraqi affairs relating to the invasion and its aftermath, it makes no attempt to dictate who shall rule in Baghdad.

The council, prompted by requests from Turkey and France, was due to turn to the humanitarian aspects of

that problem almost immediately.

Under the resolution, Iraq must submit within 15 days a list of all chemical and biological weapons, nuclear weapons-useable materials and ballistic missiles, together with precise locations.

Within 45 days the U.N. secretary-general is to present the council with a plan for the establishment of a commission to conduct on-site inspections and destroy all the weapons within another 45 days.

Periodic monitoring will continue to ensure Iraq does not acquire such arms or materials in the future.

Depriving Iraq of these weapons is depicted by the resolution as steps towards the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and of a global ban on chemical weapons.

Mr. Bush said, however, he had no intention of involving U.S. forces in Iraq's internal struggles.

Mr. Bush said: "we've done the heavy lifting" — apparently referring to the Gulf war — and that it was now time for Iraqi people to resolve matters for themselves.

Asked about suggestions that U.S. troops in Iraq be permitted to shoot down Iraqi combat helicopters being used against rebels, Mr. Bush said: "We are not there to intervene. It is

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein is greeted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan upon his return home Wednesday (Petra photo)

King: Europe anxious to see Mideast peace

Arab reconciliation should not be at the expense of Jordan's principled stand

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Wednesday after visits to France and Germany and said he found great concern in Europe over the Middle East situation and that European countries were anxious to see just peace in the region.

The King, who met with French President Francois Mitterrand and other French leaders in Paris and German President Richard von Weizsaecker and other German leaders in Bonn, said his talks in the French and German capitals were "extremely good and frank and were held in an atmosphere of friendship and confidence at all levels."

The King, in remarks carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Europe has a major role to play in the Middle East.

"Indeed, there is a great concern in Europe that the Middle East issues should be dealt with as soon as possible and in a

manner that would bring about a drastic change leading towards the better and towards the achievement of a just, durable and comprehensive solution," the King told Petra.

The Palestine question, the King said, acquires an appropriate status among all other issues and it should be dealt with quickly in a manner that would enable the Palestinians to exercise their right and allow the Palestinian leadership to have its say and contribute to the peace-making process within the ongoing international efforts to resolve the Arab-Israel conflict.

The King, expressing satisfaction over the outcome of his visits, said that France and Germany can play a special role along with the European countries.

"Discussions are under way to find ways for the establishment of a comprehensive peace," the King added in reply to a question

on the prospect of an international Middle East peace conference.

"We believe that the Arabs should work in concert and in cooperation with others to find a solution to the problem under U.N. auspices and through quiet diplomacy which should not allow the present opportunity to be missed," he said.

With reference to the Gulf crisis and efforts to bring about reconciliation within the Arab World, the King said: "Nothing should be done at the expense of Jordan because Jordan had adopted a principled stand and opposed the idea of occupation of land by force and because Jordan has been against the invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

"On the other hand, Jordan was against war because of its devastating effects. That is our stand and I believe that we were

(Continued on page 5)

At least 18 Palestinians shot and wounded in Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (R)

— Israeli troops shot and wounded 18 Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip later Tuesday when stone-throwing protesters took to the streets following a call from the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement. Palestinian sources said.

Earlier reports that Junior Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Bernard Kouchner would enter Iraq without prior clearance from Baghdad were incorrect, they added.

Mr. Kouchner was to leave for Ankara at 2200 GMT Wednesday on a special flight and was awaiting authorisation from Tehran to fly to Iraq later.

Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said earlier that France was preparing fresh diplomatic and humanitarian initiatives to ease the plight of Kurdish people.

Mr. Kouchner's spokesman said he had no immediate plans to go to Iraq.

Mr. Kouchner, 51, a doctor who helped create the international life group Medecins sans Frontieres, has carried out difficult humanitarian actions in Indochina, Africa and the Middle East.

The decision to send Mr. Kouchner came as France urged action against Iraq's "repression" of Kurds, protesting to Baghdad and asking the United Nations to condemn the violence and maintain its trade embargo until repression ended.

As fears mounted for the fate of hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees, President Mitterrand told a cabinet meeting the prestige of the United Nations would be badly hurt unless it condemned the violence.

"Failing this, the political and moral authority of the United Nations would be seriously affected," France said.

Palestinian flags with Hamas

sawned on them hung outside several homes. Palestinian sources said that Hamas activists overturned several carts in an open-air market in Gaza City.

The activists accused the vendors of selling Israeli bananas.

The uprising has regained momentum since the Gulf war and the Israeli army eased a curfew that confined most of the Palestinian residents of Gaza and the West Bank to their homes during the conflict.

In occupied Arab Jerusalem, police reported late Tuesday that they had imposed a curfew on Shuafat refugee camp in an attempt to halt clashes.

Earlier in the day, unknown assailants in the occupied territories killed four men suspected of aiding Israeli security forces and a woman died of wounds inflicted earlier.

It was the largest number of spectators informed to die in a 24-hour period since the Gulf war, when curfews and other restrictions curtailed activities of militants. Palestinians said three of the dead were from the West Bank and two from the Gaza Strip.

Gazans in Cairo

Palestinian dignitaries from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip said Wednesday they are trying to mend relations between Cairo and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) strained by the Gulf crisis.

"We will be happy if we have the chance to help bridge the gap between the PLO and the Egyptian government," said Akram Matar, director of Gaza's eye hospital.

Mr. Matar, his brother Akeel, president of Gaza's Engineers Union, and Fayed Abu Rahme, head of the Lawyers' Union, arrived last Thursday for a two-week visit. They told the Associated Press they have not met with Egyptian officials but hope to be able to before they leave.

"Every Palestinian wishes for relations with Egypt to be at their best," Mr. Akeel said. "When it comes to solving the Palestinian issue, we cannot do without Egypt."

Iraq retakes last town held by rebels

Combined agency dispatches

Baghdad appeals to northerners to return

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said Wednesday that it had put down an insurrection in the north and appealed to all those who left their homes there to return and live in peace.

Iraqi radio, quoting a statement from the Iraqi leadership, said that the leaders of the rebellion had spread rumours that the government would victimise people living in the area.

"Citizens in the cities and the areas where law and order have been re-established need not worry about their lives, property and legal rights," it added.

The statement, issued after a meeting of Iraqi leaders chaired by President Saddam Hussein, said only those involved in "crimes of murder, rape and theft, or (who) raised arms against the state and law," would be punished.

"We call on those who have left their homes in the northern cities and villages to return to live in peace and share the victory and security with everyone else," it said.

The statement, denounced those behind the rebellion as "gangs of treason and sabotage" who had links with countries opposing Iraq.

It said the Iraqi government had taken the necessary measures to restore security and order in the oil city of Kirkuk and the towns of Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaimaniya.

"The military action the government had to take to put down insurrection and sabotage in the north has thus fulfilled its purpose," the statement said.

Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi, Vice-President Taha Yassir Ramadan, Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer and Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yousef Hamzoudi attended the meeting.

"The gang leaders presiding over the sabotage, whose hopes and projects and suspect plans have been thwarted, have sought to spread panic and biased rumours among the populace in these cities," they said in their statement.

"These rumours are that the state will victimise everyone, without discriminating saboteurs and citizens, and that the armed forces will target whoever is found in places where acts of sabotage have been committed," they added.

But they said ordinary citizens had nothing to fear.

A spokesman, who read the statement, accused foreign countries of opposing Iraq in conducting a psychological campaign "in the name of a false concern for Iraqi citizens."

Such countries did not express concern about the fate of Iraq's 18 million people during the attacks on them by the United States and its allies during the Gulf war, he said.

The spokesman appealed to neighbouring countries "in spare their relations with Iraq" by dissociating themselves from such a campaign.

refugees were on the run from violence.

Iraq, meanwhile, took steps to ease Kurds' fears that govern-

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Middle East News

PLO wants talks with Lebanese on disarmament

TUNIS, (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Wednesday it supported the Lebanese government's plans to disarm militias but wanted talks on arrangements for Palestinians.

The Lebanese government has demanded all armed groups in Lebanon, including Palestinian groups, disarm by the end of April or face forcible disarmament by Syrian and Lebanese troops.

The PLO leadership discussed the situation in Lebanon on Tuesday and decided that "the Lebanese government's efforts to strengthen sovereignty and stability and liberate South Lebanon deserve support," the PLO news agency Wafa said.

The PLO leadership also expressed its sincere desire to reach complete understanding with the Lebanese government through brotherly dialogue, on all matters related to organising the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and respecting the interests and rights of Palestinian citizens," it added.

The statement neither rejected nor accepted explicitly the Lebanese demand that PLO guerrillas give up their weapons.

Abu Ali Mustafa, the PLO Executive Committee member in charge of Lebanese affairs, told Reuters Tuesday that PLO fighters in South Lebanon needed guns to face Israel as long as Israel and its militia allies held a border strip there.

"We are ready to reach a political agreement on all issues but if they want to use force to defend us, we will resist, we will defend our country," he added.

One official of the mainstream PLO group Fatah told Reuters he expected the PLO would eventually agree to disarm.

In the Ain Al Hilweh camp in

south Lebanon, Palestinian refugees say their guns guarantee their survival and they will fight Lebanese government moves to disarm them.

Diplomats and Lebanese officials say disbanding the tens of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese gunmen is the biggest hurdle for an Arab-backed plan to end 16 years of civil war.

"We will not feel safe without our men and guns," she said, to the nods of other refugees gathered around.

A 19-year-old student shook his fist in anger as he talked of the death of his parents in an attack by militiamen on their Tal Al Zaatar camp in 1976, a year after the start of Lebanon's civil war.

"Does the Lebanese government want the same fate for us?" he asked.

"Ain Al Hilweh's tin shacks lined along narrow, dark alleys, hear witness to years of Israeli attacks, inter-Palestinian fighting and clashes with Lebanese militias.

Alleys are muddy from broken sewers and residents patch shell-pocked walls and broken windows with plastic bags stuffed with blankets and old clothes to keep out the winter wind.

Trucks mounted with anti-aircraft guns manned by young guerrillas with Kalashnikov rifles guard the camp's entrances.

"Understand this: We will never surrender our weapons," one 19-year-old fighter said, raising his Kalashnikov in the air.

Many of the camp's 45,000 refugees said they only trusted their own men to defend them. The guerrillas said they could not let go of their weapons as long as Israel continued to control a border "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Some 3,000 Lebanese troops deployed in South Lebanon in February near Palestinian strong-

Kuwait nightlife gears up

KUWAIT (R) — The disco heat is pounding out again in Salmiya, a status-conscious Kuwaitis shake off seven months of Iraqi occupation to rediscover the good times.

Salmiya, Kuwait's most fashionable nightlife district, is the place to be seen. Teenagers in sports cars cruise the area. Couples throng the streets to shop for elegant suits and shoes, even though it is past midnight.

Fast-food restaurants are packed with people queuing for hamburgers — the urge to eat out is more intense during the bony month of Ramadan.

Tired of living in fear and of the hardships of post-war reconstruction, Kuwaitis are flocking to rediscover the pleasures they enjoyed before the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion shattered their consumer-oriented lifestyle.

"I looked everywhere to find a hamburger, because I haven't eaten a hamburger since August," said Yusuf Mohammad, a 25-year-old television director.

He stood in a long line waiting to be served at a packed buy-and-munch establishment which reopened on Tuesday night.

Mr. Mohammad said Kuwaitis' top priority was not buying clothes or going out, but eating — "to eat what they couldn't eat during the occupation."

Nearby Salem Mubarak Street, Kuwait City's equivalent of London's Oxford Street or New York's Fifth Avenue, is packed with cars and shoppers strolling along pavement cars drive around in a circle bumper-to-bumper, carrying Kuwaitis eager to savour the atmosphere.

Teenagers lounged in one car with the stereo thumping out a disco beat.

"We'd almost forgotten that those old days would return. We'd almost lost hope," Salah Al Azmi, a Kuwaiti army officer who lived on the run during the Iraqi occupation, said as he strolled along Salem Mubarak Street with his wife.

During the occupation, Salem Mubarak Street changed. People still came to shop, but street vendors replaced the established stores, many of whose owners fled the country.

The variety in the stores now is not as extensive as it used to be and some shops, many of them looted, are still boarded up.

But you can already buy expensive suits, shoes, toiletries, electrical goods, spectacles and cassette tapes.

Mohammad Radwan, a Syrian shopkeeper selling women's clothes, said two of his three stores had been set on fire during the occupation and he was only able to open one. "But it's not too bad," he said.

At the nearby Sultan Centre supermarket, workers are filling shelves with a limited variety of goods. But there are heaps of fresh fruits and vegetables.

"In three days, we'll have everything you need," said manager Abdullah Jazara.

Free money in Kuwait — some not interested

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — The emir of this wealthy country is offering free money to every citizen who stayed through the Iraqi occupation, but some Kuwaitis are just shrugging, even grouching.

Some say they don't need the 500 dinars (\$1,700) — about one month's per capita income. Others say it is not enough. A few think the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, should keep his cash and offer democracy instead.

The longest lines in recently reopened banks are for people wanting U.S. dollars rather than Kuwaitis waiting for free money.

"I came to get some dollars so I can go on vacation outside Kuwait," said Abdul Hameed Jasem, who was waiting at the Commercial Bank of Kuwait. "I don't need the (emir's) money."

Dahri Ali said he had collected his 500 dinars and was giving it to Egyptians, Sudanese and other foreigners living in his neighbourhood who had assisted Kuwaitis during the occupation.

Others were less grateful.

"It's the emir's way of saying he's sorry," said Ibrahim Al Bahri, an engineer. "I think he should have given at least a thousand."

Hajjaj Sulayman, who was waiting at a bank with an eight-centimetre stack of Kuwaiti notes, said money was not the most valuable thing the emir had to offer.

"He should give us democracy instead," said Mr. Sulayman, a shoe store owner. "Does it look like I need money? I wish I could buy some democracy from the emir with this."

The government has enough

Republican group sees political reform in Kuwait

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican delegation to Kuwait said Tuesday it found a warm reception for proposed democratic reforms, including voting rights for women. The group plans a conference in Washington to further explore those aims.

The conference, in late April or early May, will include representatives of Kuwait's political opposition, including the London-based coalition that has formed to demand elections and legalised political parties, the Republican group said.

"There is certainly a lot of interest in this," said Rep. Robert Lagomarsino, chairman of the National Republican Institute for International Affairs, an affiliate of the party that promotes democracy overseas.

He said the Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States, Saudi Nasir Al Sabah, would be invited to the Washington conference, as well as Kuwaitis who remained in their country and formed the resistance movement during the country's occupation by Iraq.

Others invited will include members of Congress, experts at running elections and pollsters. One delegation official said the Kuwaitis now lack the expertise to sound out public opinion on issues facing the government.

Political parties are banned and freedom of the press and public dissent have at times been curbed by the government.

The institute's programme director, Margaret Thompson, who was a member of last week's mission to Kuwait, said the occupation has helped unify the formerly disparate elements in the country's political opposition.

"A lot of people's views have changed," she said, creating more common ground for opposition groups as diverge on the Shi'ite Muslims on the right and the pan-Arab movement of the political left.

Mr. Lagomarsino said one difficulty facing the country was where to take the first step on the path towards democratisation.

"Should they set up an interim (legislative) body? Should they elect a new parliament first?

Whatever they do, there is a fairly strong feeling that they should act under the 1962 constitution."

That document, adopted soon after Kuwait won independence, gives primary executive authority to a hereditary monarch, the emir. The constitution provides for an elected national assembly, but only adult males whose families were citizens before 1921 can vote.

Political parties are banned and freedom of the press and public dissent have at times been curbed by the government.

Captured Afghan city quiet as victors wait for response

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Afghan garrison captured by Mujahideen guerrillas four days ago was reported quiet on Wednesday with no sign of a promised government effort to recapture the city.

Mujahideen sources in the Pakistan frontier city of Peshawar said the government fired three Scud missiles on Tuesday but they fell harmlessly outside the garrison.

The capture of Khost by the rebels Sunday was a major morale boost after two years of political and military stalemate in the 12-year-old Afghan conflict.

Afghanistan's Ambassador to India Ahmad Sarwar vowed on Tuesday that Khost would be

retaken soon as reiterated Kabul's charge that Pakistani forces played a decisive role in the battle.

Western diplomats in Islamabad said the Afghan government had reinforced Gardez City which lies between Khost and the capital Kabul, but had detected no sign it was preparing a counter-offensive.

"They are playing a cagey game. It is not clear what they are going to do," one diplomat said.

A special sitting of parliament in Kabul declared on Tuesday that the assault on Khost, 25 kilometres from Pakistan border, had done nothing to change the military balance, the official Bakhtar news agency reported.

air power remains a key advantage for the Soviet-supported government of President Najibullah, but the rebels said bad weather seemed to have prevented any retaliatory air strikes on Khost since Sunday night.

The first video film to emerge of the final battle showed Mujahideen guerrillas firing mortars and multiple-rockets launchers from high points around the river valley in which Khost lies.

The guerrillas took at least 2,500 prisoners when most of the garrison surrendered on Sunday and the film shows a bearded Mujahideen commander bartering a group of prisoners after the city fell.

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JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 4-5, 1991

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq: U.S. troops might damage Ur

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq warned Tuesday that Ur, the birthplace in southern Iraq of the Biblical Patriarch Abraham, might be damaged by U.S. troops patrolling the archaeological site. "We alert the United Nations, the countries and peoples of the world and world organisations for culture and heritage to the responsibilities in preventing interference with this human legacy," Iraqi U.N. Representative Abdul Amir Al Anbari said. In a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, he said members of the U.S. armed forces "occupying the territory of Iraq" were patrolling at the Ur archaeological site in the province of Dhi Qar. "You are well aware of the historical and cultural importance of the Ur archaeological site as the centre of one of the most ancient of the human civilisations that arose in Mesopotamia and containing archaeological treasures of inestimable value," Mr. Anbari said. The presence there of U.S. forces "brings with it the danger that these troops may tamper with and cause destruction to the site," he added.

Saudi papers cease attacks on Saddam

JEDDAH (AP) — For the first time since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Saudi newspapers came out Tuesday without attacks on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and without playing up rebellion in Iraq. Newspaper sources said the Information Minister instructed Saudi newspapers to stop personal attacks on President Saddam and to restrict mention of the uprising to what is reported by international wire services. The newspaper sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the instructions were issued verbally by Information Minister Ali Al Shaer to all Saudi editors in chief Sunday evening. The Monday editions could not be altered, but Tuesday newspapers carried no criticism of President Saddam. The sources said the newspapers were instructed to carry editorials from Iraq "without adding salt or pepper to their own." Personal attacks on President Saddam should also be stopped, the instructions said. Al Sharq Al Awsat, a Jeddah newspaper based in London, for the first time Tuesday spoke about President Saddam, the "Iraqi president." Since the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, the title "president" was not used to refer to President Saddam in the newspaper.

Algerian premier urges political alliance

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche proposed a political alliance against secular and religious extremism in the run-up to the country's first multi-party elections. In an interview published in the daily *Essalam* Wednesday, he called for "a union of patriots to neutralise all forms of extremism." Over 40 political parties have emerged since President Chadli Benjedid introduced a multi-party system in 1989. General elections are due in late June or early July. "Our generation must strive and persevere to eliminate extremism from our society and contribute to an alternative that will turn back the extremism that certain ideologies and mentalities are trying to spread," Mr. Hamrouche said.

Kuwait Airways resuming flights from London

LONDON (AP) — Kuwait Airways, grounded during the Gulf war, said Wednesday that it would be resuming flights from Heathrow Airport Thursday. The airline plans to operate service between London and Bahrain, Bombay, Cairo and New York using Boeing 767 and Boeing 727 aircraft. Bahrain will be used as the airline's main operations hub until war-damaged Kuwait City airport is rebuilt, officials said.

U.S. soldier loses legs in Kuwait

ABDALI, Kuwait (R) — A U.S. soldier, clearing an area for a refugee camp in Kuwait, lost both his legs when an unexploded bomb left over from the Gulf war blew up Tuesday, a Red Cross official said. Thomas Kerkerling, an American Red Cross official who saw the wounded man, said he had stepped on an unexploded cluster bomb. "I don't know if he's going to make it," said Mr. Kerkerling, who is helping the Kuwaiti Red Crescent to run the Abdali refugee camp. Mr. Kerkerling said the soldier had been scouring a piece of land near the camp for unexploded bombs so that the refugee camp could expand.

Somalia accuses Kenya of helping rebels

NICOSIA (R) — Somali Prime Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib accused Kenya Tuesday of helping anti-government rebels, the Omani News Agency reported. "We have information that Kenya has started to help these elements, responsible for destroying economic resources and properties in Somalia," he said after meeting Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman. "It (Kenya) is providing them with arms and munitions." Mr. Ghalib was in Oman as part of a tour of oil-rich Gulf Arab states seeking financial help in rebuilding the country after the fall of former President Mohammad Siad Barre last January. He said Ali Mahdi Mohammad, appointed interim president pending the election of a new government, had sent a letter to Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, but had no reply. The agency quoted Mr. Ghalib as appealing for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Arab League to put pressure on Kenya to stop helping the rebels. The caretaker government last month postponed a national conference on the future of Somalia, an impoverished country in the Horn of Africa. Mr. Ghalib said he expected elections in which "all sections of the people will take part" to be held next year, but gave no specific date.

Saud says genuine peace needed

PARIS (AP) — Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said Tuesday that his country and France shared identical views on the need to profit from the post-war situation in the Middle East to seek a real peace and resolve the Palestinian question. Prince Saud Al Faisal met for 45 minutes with President Francois Mitterrand as well as with French counterpart, Roland Dumas. France and Saudi Arabia "will try to contribute in all sincerity and with seriousness to the realisation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," the prince said after his meeting with Mr. Mitterrand. He banded the appreciation for France's "noble position" during the Gulf crisis.

The prince said, assuring that the French contribution would have a positive effect on bilateral relations and French ties with the Arab World.

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 81381/32

Al-Maliki Maternity, J. Amman 64428/6

Al-Sabah Maternity, J. Amman 64244/2

Central Amman Telephone 642262

Mahmoud, J. Amman 64171/4

Palestine, Shmeisani 66417/4

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 645845

Al-Muhibah Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

Water Authority 680100

MARKET PRICES

	Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

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MAP raises funds for Palestinians, says conditions worsened after Gulf war

AMMAN — The London-based Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) is currently raising funds to help support the medical needs of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation. One of the founding members, Dr. Swee Chai Ang, author of the book "From Beirut to Jerusalem," has been active in promoting the cause of the Palestinians.

Kathy Qaqish from Radio Jordan interviewed Dr. Ang on the telephone and asked her about the reports MAP had been receiving on the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

"Because of the situation in the Gulf nearly 300,000 Palestinians who used to work in Kuwait and who used to transfer money to their families in the occupied lands have lost their livelihood with devastating effects on themselves and their relatives in areas under Israeli occupation," said Dr. Ang.

"Indeed these Palestinian ex-patriates used to finance Palestinian institutions, like hospitals and schools, and MAP is trying to find means of supporting the medical centres in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," she said.

"Not only has the demand from the Palestinian medical institutions increased, but our own problems in England have doubled as there is a lot of misunderstanding in the West regarding the Palestinians due to erroneous information about the Palestinians," she added.

"I think that the Palestinians have been very much the victim of what was going on in the Gulf and, regrettably, sympathy for

Some Muslims reluctant to go on pilgrimage after Gulf war

By Rana Sabagh
Reuter

AMMAN — Some Muslims are reluctant to make the annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest sites because of Saudi Arabia's anti-Iraq stand in the Gulf war.

The Jordanian government, anxious to heal the Arab rifts caused by the conflict, has given the pilgrims clearance to go.

But they may be deterred by anger at Saudi Arabia's support for the U.S.-led allies and sensitivity over the continued presence of U.S. troops.

The hajj is one of the five basic duties of Islam and should be performed by every Muslim at least once in his lifetime if he has the means.

"I will not go to the hajj while Americans and Jews are still there desecrating the holy places," said Jordanian technician Nidal Marzouk. "It is a duty, but after all that happened this year it is hard for me to forget and go."

Jordan's main Muslim Brother-

Libyan team, JES officials hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A Libyan economic and trade team, currently on a visit to Jordan, Wednesday met with the Board of Directors of the Jordanian Economic Society (JES).

Deputy Chairman of the society's Board of Directors Kamal Qaqish briefed the team on the society's duties and works in serving its members by marketing social services offices in Jordan.

He expressed the society's readiness to cooperate with Liyan exporters. He said the Jordanian industrial products, which are distinguished for their reasonable prices and good quality, were able to compete with more advanced states' industries in the markets of neighbouring countries.

The society provided the Liyan team with lists and catalogues of the Jordanian industries.

Head of the visiting delegation, Saleh Al Sheikhi, who is also in charge of import/export operations in Libya, stressed his country's keenness to bolster and promote cooperation between Jordan and Libya in various fields.

The delegation is on a several-day visit to Jordan for talks designed to promote economic and trade ties between the two countries and pave the way for the signing of new agreements on trade exchanges.

The team has held talks with delegations representing the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Amman Chamber of Commerce.



Dr. Swee Chai Ang

we see hunger even in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the United Nations agencies have now started to supply food even to non-refugees to prevent starvation," Dr. Ang added.

She said that there was a shortage of food on a constant basis and people starved and suffered from malnutrition mainly because of prolonged curfews.

Dr. Ang referred to her tour in the United States, where she addressed religious groups and politicians, saying: "I think the message is quite clear, that every one does not seek a just and peaceful way of solving things in the Middle East, and therefore I believe that this will not be the last war to be fought." Dr. Ang pointed out.

Dr. Ang said that she would be coming to Jordan in the course of a march to raise funds for the Palestinian people. "I would really want to thank the Jordanian people for all they are doing to help the Palestinians," Dr. Ang said.

Born in 1948, Dr. Ang graduated from the University of Singapore. In 1976 she went to Britain with her husband and qualified as an orthopaedic surgeon. Following the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Dr. Ang volunteered with a medical team to help the besieged Palestinians in Beirut camps, and was active in her assistance to the refugees following the massacres of Sabra and Shatila.

Her book "From Beirut to Jerusalem" offers an outline of her experience with the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Asked on the seriousness of the situation in the occupied territories, Dr. Ang said that the majority of people faced difficulty and many faced real hunger. "In the past we used to see hunger in Gaza only, but lately

hood movement is taking the government line and recommending participation.

"Hajj is a duty and a temporary misunderstanding between us and the rulers of Saudi Arabia should not disrupt this duty," a spokesman said. "Those who can afford it should go."

Relations between Amman and Riyadh deteriorated, as many Jordanians took a fierce pro-Iraqi stance in the conflict, but fence-mending is now the main priority.

"King Hussein is keen to restore Arab unity and letting the Arab League come out with a new outlook so that it can play a leading role in serving Arab interest," said Ahmad Hlel, secretary general of the Religious Endowments Ministry.

Algeria, which opposed the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf, has said it will take part in the hajj, but opinion polls indicate the majority of Algerians will stay at home.

Iraq, which stayed neutral during the war, is enjoying much improved relations with Saudi Arabia.

"I will not go to the hajj while Americans and Jews are still there desecrating the holy places," said Jordanian technician Nidal Marzouk. "It is a duty, but after all that happened this year it is hard for me to forget and go."

Jordan's main Muslim Brother-

Charity organisation, UNRWA sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement of cooperation has been signed between Human Appeal — Jordan office, represented by the regional Director Bahineen Shanabah and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), represented by the field relief and social services offices in Jordan.

The two parties agreed on April 4, 1991, on holding joint cooperation courses of social training and rehabilitation for women in refugee camps.

Human Appeal also signed an

agreement with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) in Jordan to supervise and coordinate the above mentioned courses.

Human Appeal took it upon itself to work for developing and modernising the needy communities, either through the provision of concrete assistance or the provision of moral and cultural support.

"Hence our experience in Jordan comes to support the programmes of the organisation and to strengthen the relationship with U.N. organisations," says a statement issued after signing the agreement.

Gulf Bank trains local staff in Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — During the months following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Gulf Bank of Kuwait took the opportunity to review its activities in readiness for the resumption of business once the liberation of the country was complete. One major area of activity was the launch of an ambitious training scheme aimed at increasing the number of Kuwaiti nationals employed by the Gulf Bank and to encourage young Kuwaitis to choose banking as a career.

Training centres were set up in Dubai in February, and Cairo in March. From several hundred applicants in each area, fifty were chosen to undergo this intensive programme of career development. The course consisted of five main stages of activity, including one week of English lan-

Study shows summer time saved the country JD 1.7m in five years

Jordan switches to summer time April 17

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will switch to summer time at midnight, Wednesday, April 17, 1991, when clocks will be advanced by 60 minutes to run three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), according to a communiqué issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday.

The switch, adopted for the sixth consecutive year, is aimed at conserving energy, an aim which the government has been trying to achieve through different means.

During the Gulf crisis, the government introduced a number of measures to conserve energy, including the adoption of a two-day per week holiday for government departments, reducing the period during which businesses can operate in the evening, and allowing private cars to run only on alternate days.

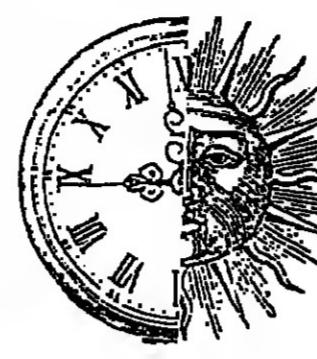
According to a statement issued Wednesday by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has conducted studies on the adoption of summer time in Jordan, revealing that the measure helps reduce fuel consumption in all forms.

The studies, Petra said, quoting the Ministry of Energy, which covered the 1986-1990 period, showed that the reduction in electricity consumption saved fuel worth JD 327,000 each year, and the total amount saved over the past five years, thanks to the introduction of summer time, was 44,000 tonnes of fuel, worth JD 1.7 million.

In view of the current prices of fuel used to generate electricity in Jordan, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources expects that by switching to summer time, this year the country could save as much as JD 500,000, Petra noted.

It said that by applying the summer timing, homes will save one hour of lighting at night.

In addition, the agency said, there will be a cut to the period of time during which air condition-



ing systems operate.

The drive to save energy comes at a time when the cash-strapped country is striving to reduce its imports bill.

Following Saudi Arabia's decision to cut off oil supplies to Jordan, and due to the Gulf war, which brought to an end Jordan's reliance on Iraqi crude, the Kingdom has now started buying oil from Yemen and Syria at international market rates, higher than the rates of Iraqi crude shipped to Jordan in payment of debts to the Kingdom.

Specialists estimate that by adopting summer time, Jordan will save one hour of energy per day, consumed for lighting, by reducing the need for artificial light during the evening, which means saving up to 20 per cent of the total energy normally consumed in the country.

According to the statistics, Jordan imports about 22 million barrels of crude annually and the energy conservation methods are deemed necessary under the present circumstances.

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Jamal Sarsa said in a statement last month that the energy conservation programme, introduced by the government during the Gulf crisis, saved up to JD 13,000 on a daily basis.

Syria introduced summer time on April 1, while Israel switched to summer time last month

Humanitarian group lauds Jordan's aid to evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 13-member peace group representing "Earthwatch Organisation" in the United States held a press conference in Amman Wednesday during which they voiced the organisation's appreciation of Jordan's position and Jordan National Red Crescent Society's (JNRS) assistance given to the evacuees who fled Kuwait during the Gulf crisis.

Head of the group Daman Pary said that his organisation had conducted a campaign in the United States to collect contributions to Jordan and said that the Kingdom deserved appreciation and help from all countries for its care for nearly one million evacuees of various nationalities.

Ceramics industry reports ups and downs

AMMAN (J.T.) — A ceramics company in Jordan Wednesday announced it was operating at 50 per cent production capacity due to the economic recession brought about by the Gulf crisis, but the management has high hopes that new markets will be found soon in Arab and foreign countries.

Ghazi Zakarneh, executive director of the Arab Ceramics Industries Company (ACIC), said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ceramics plant, founded last year at Sabah Industrial City, near Amman, was seeking new markets to replace those in the Gulf states which have stopped importing their products from Jordan.

The company, which has a total capital of JD 2 million, with investments exceeding JD 5 million, was originally established in Spain before opening a branch in Jordan with capital from Jordan and other Arab countries, Mr. Zakarneh said.

The plant in Spain markets its products in the countries of the European Community, while in Jordan it is selling products, mainly floor and wall tiles, to the Arab World and Asian countries," Mr. Zakarneh pointed out.

The training of candidates was undertaken by senior staff of the Gulf Bank, specifically chosen for their experience and awareness of the high standards required. Customer service is a high priority for the bank, so particular emphasis was placed on this subject to ensure that the candidates were trained to serve speedily and efficiently.

The past seven months has been a period of intensive activity for the Gulf Bank, and it is now a position to resume business at an even higher level of excellence than before.

Mr. Zakarneh said that the Sahab plant employs 100 workers and technicians, but the number could be increased in the light of an increase in production which

now covers the Kingdom's needs and leaves good amounts for export.

The other ceramics company is the Jordan Ceramics Industries Company (JCIC) which was established in 1977 and which has a total capital of JD 2 million, and assets estimated at JD 7 million, according to the company's Director General Fadihi Hiyyas.

Mr. Hiyyas told the Jordan Times that the company's sales last year were worth JD 4.6 million, registering a JD 1 million profit.

"Our production covers 90 per cent of the Jordanian market's needs of ceramics, and we sell products to other Arab and foreign countries as well," said Mr. Hiyyas.

"Recently we signed a contract to sell the Soviet Union \$250,000 worth of ceramics products and last year we sold unspecified amounts to South Korea," Mr. Hiyyas said.

"All the raw materials needed for the ceramics industry in Jordan are found in the country, especially in the areas of Mahez, Mudawara, Batn Al Ghoul and Ras Al Naqab in southern Jordan, but the company continues to buy the paint for the ceramics from foreign countries as no such paint can be found in the Arab World," Mr. Hiyyas added.

"By producing ceramics in Jordan, we are saving the country an estimated JD 4 million in hard currency annually."

Queen tours south

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday toured Wadi Araba and the southern Jordan Valley region, to familiarise herself with the conditions of people there and to get acquainted with the damages inflicted by the rainstorms and floods that swept the area last week.

Queen Noor started her tour by visiting Quweiqra village, situated in the desert extending between the cities of Aqaba and Karak, where she got acquainted with the difficult living conditions of the citizens who are deprived of the basic requirements.

The population of the village is estimated at about 3,000 people, most of them depending on raising sheep and farming, while the rest have no sources of income.

Queen Noor also inspected the village's health centre, which was set up and equipped last week. The centre was not inaugurated officially yet and has no resident doctor at the time being. A doctor, who works in the city of Aqaba, visits the centre twice a week and a male nurse is in charge of the centre for the rest of the week.

Upon directives from Her Majesty, the region will be included in Al Noor Project for Developing Rural Areas, which is

the week.

Her Majesty asked the concerned authorities to provide basic and comprehensive health care services to the region, including consultancy and education services to help prevent the spread of diseases and epidemics.

The Queen then reopened Wadi Al Hassa dam in the region after preliminary restoration work ended there.

Her Majesty was briefed by the Karak governor on the damages to the agricultural sector and private and public property.

Queen Noor lauded the citizens' cooperation with the official institution in the process of assessing the extent of damage and commended the government's attempts to find swift solutions to the problems.

She called for enhancing this cooperation because of the fruitful results it will produce in developing the region.

The Queen was accompanied on the tour by Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha Al Faisal, the NHF director general and several officials.

Queen Noor then visited Al Mazra'a area, in the southern Jordan Valley region, to familiarise herself with the measures taken by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) to repair damages caused by floods at Wadi Al Karak irrigation project.

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Iraq's stock of cooking gas, kerosene running out fast

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraq has only a few days' supply of kerosene and cooking gas to meet the demands of its people, and unless the international community rushes in the two products immediately, the very existence of millions of Iraqis would be put in jeopardy, according to experts who are familiar with the energy situation in the embattled country.

According to the statistics, Jordan imports about 22 million barrels of crude annually and the energy conservation methods are deemed necessary under the present circumstances.

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Jamal Sarsa said in a statement last month that the energy conservation programme, introduced by the government during the Gulf crisis, saved up to JD 13,000 on a daily basis.

It said that by applying the summer timing, homes will save one hour of lighting at night.

In addition, the agency said, there will be a cut to the period of time during which air condition-

three months to one year before Iraq's power-generating and oil refining capacity could be raised to the minimum level required to operate water sanitation plants and power-generators on

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United they should stand

THROUGHOUT the past month, the biggest question was whether Iraq as a country could survive the Shi'ite rebellion in the south and the Kurdish armed mutiny in the north. Today that question is more or less moot, thanks to an army that, despite all the odds, held its own.

The Iraqi government's success in quelling the rebellion has been impressive, given the fact that Iraq was almost totally devastated as a country by the war. In fact, it was due to that devastation that the rebellion started and grew in the first place. Baghdad's success, however, has not been without a price. Thousands of Iraqis have been killed. Hundreds of thousands displaced. More destruction and suffering ensued. Enmity and hatred amongst members of the Iraqi family deepened. And above all agony over the future now looms larger than ever before.

It is indeed this last worry that warrants the most attention and greatest concern. For the Kurds and the Shi'ites are Iraqis too, and their problems within the state and grievances with the system have to be promptly tackled and solved.

This cannot and should not be done by shedding more blood, or by retribution and wreaking further havoc within a society that has had enough of war and enough of everything related to conflict and bloody struggle.

It is incumbent on the central government in Baghdad, on the Iraqi Shi'ites and Kurds, even the various opposition groups inside and outside the country, to come together, talk, negotiate and compromise, to reach a just and lasting agreement on reconciliation, and making progress by the whole country and all its people. True, this is a most difficult and arduous task in light of what happened. But magnanimity and forgiveness are always the best cure to feuds and disputes, especially among brothers and countrymen. Iraq did not begin with Saddam Hussein or with Jalal Talabani and Mohammad Bakr Al Hakim, nor will it end with them. Iraq is for all Iraqis. It has always been an integral part of history and will continue to be there. For a better, more secure and stable future, therefore, every effort must be made now to tackle the roots of fratricide and civil strife.

It is to this end that we laud the ability of the Iraqi army, despite the heavy price, to retake control of most of Iraqi territory and towns. And it is to this end also that we welcome the government's pledge to democratise and pluralise political life in the republic. Iraq, throughout its history, was a diversified mix of religions, cultures and ethnic groups. It has to survive and prosper this way with equal rights and duties granted to and demanded of everyone living there. We say this in the full knowledge that the challenges are great and the circumstances are extremely difficult. What with the newest U.N. Security Council resolution that Iraq has to take with swallowed pride and at great cost to itself and its people! Not to forget the colossal task of rebuilding and rising from the ashes of war! The challenges have to be confronted head on. But they will be a lot easier when faced by a united country and by a people at peace with itself.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY BAKING the separatists in Iraq, France is proving once again that it is in the pay of the U.S.-Zionist alliance, and would stop at nothing to display hostility towards the Arab Nation — the enemies of this alliance. Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Wednesday. France's moves at the international level to show backing and support for the separatists who caused so much atrocities in Iraqi towns follows in the wake of French air raids on Iraqi towns and the killing of Iraqi civilians, said the paper. The air raids on Iraq can be no means draw support from any one in the Arab World, and France's new moves to support rebels can only be interpreted as an open hostility to this nation, the paper said. The Arab people still remember the massacres committed by France in Algeria, Syria, Tunisia, Libya and Morocco, and can only regard the current moves as further French crimes committed against the Arabs and Muslims, it noted. France, which banned Arab and Islamic press and stopped all Arab and Islamic broadcasts, can by no means deceive anybody by trying to show sympathy towards the rebels in Iraq, nor can it win the hearts of the Arab people by pursuing its crimes against them, the paper added. The paper said that no doubt Paris took its orders from Israel and the United States, and is now sacrificing principles for the sake of ensuring selfish interests.

A columnist in Al Dustour daily promotes the cause of poultry farmers who, he says, are not receiving any support for their work from the concerned Jordanian authorities, something which has caused the present confusion and the closure of many of these farms. Muhammad Daoud says that the government has ignored complaints raised by the poultry farmers, and have instead resorted to selling frozen poultry meat in the local markets at lower prices which drove many of these farmers out of business. The writer notes that Jordan, which used to export white meat, is now counting on imported poultry meat to feed its population. There is an urgent need for the government to seriously study problems related to poultry farming so that objective solutions can be found, the writer demands. He asks the Ministry of Supply to refrain from selling frozen poultry and to abstain from interfering in the prices of the locally produced poultry meat if the local farmers are to be encouraged to pursue their work in a profitable manner and to serve their country. The writer notes in particular that the price of animal feed is closely connected to the price of poultry meat, and for this reason he calls on the government to deal with the question of the feed's soaring prices. He says that not only the farmers are bound to sustain losses, but also those who had invested huge sums in this business. The writer says finding solutions for these problems is not a miracle, and it is urgent that the local authorities look into the matter before it is too late.

The call of arms and the poor man

By J.K. Galbraith

THERE was one thing that, above all, in our days of eminence, Americans were taught. That was to be cautious about too obtrusive a claim to superiority. Superiority there was of course — technical, economic, military, even intellectual — but it was not to be mentioned. This valuable instruction continues and keeps us from asserting one defining quality that sets us apart, if not exactly above. That, out of a special experience, is our ability to distinguish rhetoric from reality in political speeches and, indeed, to assume the former.

I was deeply impressed by this advantage a few weeks ago when travelling in Europe. I was repeatedly asked by mentally competent people, including numerous journalists, what I thought of President Bush's herald of a new world order.

This was with an emphasis that leads me here to wonder if it shouldn't be written The New World Order. I knew by national advantage that this was speech, not substance. So, I cannot doubt, did most of my intellectually viable countrymen. We have come, thanks to Mr. Reagan and now Mr. Bush, to assume this in presidential communication, military ventures apart. Faced with an especially difficult domestic problem, Mr. Bush, like Mr. Reagan before him, goes all out with oratory and, in the extreme case, promises additional research. I very much wish to see a better ordering of world relationships. However, I do not think we should minimise the hard steps that are involved. They cannot be wholly disguised even by the most accomplished oratory.

That the collapse of the communist economic system and its supporting political rigour has greatly changed the world is not in doubt. This has precipitated local discord and dissent, and it commits the countries in question to the united and perilous path from comprehensive socialism back to the mixed economy now seen to be the greater economic and political success. A far from minor requirement of a new world order is that this transition be assisted by the more fortunate countries in a highly tangible way with money and credits. It is vital that political liberty and a movement to a market economy not be identified with intolerable hardship.

Marx made the point and with emphasis: before communism there has to be capitalism. Only after its exfoliation, oppression and, as he emphasised, its socialising effect on the masses is socialism possible. In primitive peasant societies neither capitalism nor communism has meaning. Visiting Vietnam in the early days of our disastrous involvement there, I was struck by the difficulty in telling a communist jungle from a capitalist jungle or even making that determination as to a rice paddy. Some 30 years ago on going to India as ambassador, I found a deep preoccupation in the State Department and especially in the Central Intelligence Agency with the thought that India might go communist. I invited a certain amount of criticism and possibly some suspicion as to my reliability on such matters for observing that for communism this would be a disaster for which not even the most relentless enemy of that system could really wish.

Now this long-lived insanity is at an end. The legions deployed by the CIA and its companion intelligence agencies elsewhere do not face un-

ger on matters of some slight substance will the Americans and their allies and the Soviets and their acolytes be automatically arrayed on opposite sides and with the companion and inevitable veto in the Security Council. The Gulf war, with both of the superpowers in active or passive support, was, one cannot doubt, a manifestation of major change. And the U.S. government showed a concern for U.N. approval and support that was well beyond anything experienced in recent decades. This provided the basic case, not least for Americans, for the military intervention and war on the desert sands. Better that we had had such authority for our descent on Grenada and Panama.

But in anything that is to be called a new world order, one in which there is effective resolution of internal and external conflict and an effective attack on their causes, the U.N. must be a great deal more than it is now. It cannot, as in the Gulf war, be the justifying instrument of American policy. It must have a higher authority of its own. There must, in other words, be some surrender of sovereignty to the U.N., and not least by Washington.

Additionally, a difficult point, the U.N. must have the authority to end and reverse not alone aggression by one country against another but also mass slaughter and des-

ta, who is a practising sharia lawyer, pointed out.

The movement perceives its stance during the Gulf crisis as one anti-Israel position rather than one siding with Iraq. "We are not regretful at our clear position against the Zionist octopus and those who supported it. Time will be the judge," Sheikh Khalifa said.

Other Brotherhood spokesmen lashed out at journalists who wrote articles on the group's "declining support." Writing in the movement's new weekly publication Al Rabat, the unnamed political editor of the magazine called for "thoughtful reading" into the "undemocratic" analysis of the writers.

He described one Reuter report on the issue as "provocative" and said it lacked credibility because it did not provide statistics to support its argument. The editor implicitly also criticised the Jordan Times for carrying it and cast doubt on Reuter's credentials as an impartial news agency.

Defending the group's position on Iraq, Al Rabat wrote: "It is as if the Brotherhood is in control of armies, bombs, tanks and missiles and did not move them to support Iraq."

In reply to another article that appeared recently in the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat, in which the movement was called "Jordan's Likud" because of its uncompromising position on the Palestine issue, an unsigned statement by the Brotherhood said:

"We don't know what is so shameful about the Brotherhood's stance rejecting any dealings with the Zionist body in any form and insisting on the liberation of all Palestine from the sea to the river, which is a position shared by many forces, Palestinian, Arab and Islamist, in all parts of the world."

"We would have liked (the writer of the article) to call things by their name: 'The Muslim Brothers'

employment. It is in the nature of such occupation that function, even if not real, can still be imagined. But the conflict between the Soviet Union and the U.S., the ultimate justification, is over. An end to the paranoid concern about communism in the Third World is no slight step to a new and better world order. This is so even if, as in Panama and now the Middle East, or earlier by the British in the Falklands, new justifications for military adventure in the Third World emerge.

There is also the promise of a new role for the United Nations as part of a new world order, or at this least can be hoped. There is much there that needs to be changed. As from all persons of goodwill, the U.N. has long had my support. I've been often on its New York premises. Alas, however, I have never come away without a powerful impression of speeches and yet more speeches emphasising worthy purpose — disarmament, economic development, human rights, women's rights, peaceful resolution of some dispute, much else — that were without any clear relation to practical result. I've had the impression that no action was really intended; here too the rhetoric was the reality. Nothing more was expected or asked.

Nonetheless there is now at least hope for change. No longer

"We must remind ourselves that in this world there is no literate population that is poor and no illiterate population that is anything but poor. Let us have also in mind that in all countries war and civil conflict are peculiarly the opportunity that is accorded the ignorant."

ger on matters of some slight substance will the Americans and their allies and the Soviets and their acolytes be automatically arrayed on opposite sides and with the companion and inevitable veto in the Security Council. The Gulf war, with both of the superpowers in active or passive support, was, one cannot doubt, a manifestation of major change. And the U.S. government showed a concern for U.N. approval and support that was well beyond anything experienced in recent decades. This provided the basic case, not least for Americans, for the military intervention and war on the desert sands. Better that we had had such authority for our descent on Grenada and Panama.

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"We would have liked (the writer of the article) to call things by their name: 'The Muslim Brothers'

complaints within a country. An effective U.N. would, years ago, have taken over and arrested the internecine belligerency in Uganda and Beirut or, more recently, in Liberia. As the U.N. should exercise sovereignty, so it should have power when sovereignty is outrageously misused to suspend it. Modern mass horror now results, if anything less from international conflict than from internal conflict and massacre. The most elementary order is the need to stop internal butchery. Menon of the needed remedy, the suspension of grossly misused sovereignty, shows how far we have yet to go.

But there is need for still more. An effective world order would require international action to stop the arms trade — to stop the sale and purchase of the weapons with which, in a far from congenial way, people around the world, and notably in the poorest countries, are killing each other. The weapons with which the Iraqis and the Iranians engaged in mass murder in their enduring war were mostly supplied from abroad, as also those that the U.S. and the U.N. forces faced more recently in or over Kuwait and Iraq. No meaningful world order can tolerate such commercially sponsored euthanasia.

It would be a test of our American president's commitment to this new order we he

came or perhaps entirely to be trusted. The poor are far more available for armed demagogues; although the later prospect may be in doubt, it cannot compare too unfavourably with the present world. And more than adequately available are the voices calling for mass immolation in the name of political oppression, language, ethnic identity or, alas,

largely unrecognised turn. For decades arms negotiators from the Soviet Union and the U.S. have been meeting in Geneva. Theirs has been a moderately prestigious, modestly paid and distinctly leisurely occupation from which they have derived the peculiar satisfaction of knowing that they were dealing personally with the great issues of survival and death while they themselves have developed a kind of hard-boiled disconcert for mass immolation. As their efforts (so to speak) continued, so in only slightly less measure did the manufacture and employment of nuclear weapons. These are now distributed by the thousands over the U.S. and the Soviet Union and over and under the oceans. As sufficiently evident and observed they no longer arm nations in deeply ideological conflict. Again the end of the cold war is that these weapons might go into irresponsible and violent hands.

In the U.S. North Dakota is a land of wide horizons and widely sweeping plains. Those plains are pitted promiscuously with missile silos: North Dakota, if independent, would, it is said, be the third greatest nuclear power in the world. The danger that this state, its recurrent agrarian discontent notwithstanding, will seek independence in the near future is not great. I, for one, have similar hopes that the USSR, however federalised, will survive. But these weapons, so widely distributed in both countries, must surely now be gathered up and destroyed.

This is not a matter for leisurely negotiation; it is a matter for prompt and comprehensive action. In a new world order let there be a joint American-Soviet commission under U.N. auspices and with an utterly determined chairman and staff, whose task it would be to assemble and dispose of these lethal instruments of death.

It will be said by the practical men, those who have made their professional accommodation to their personal Armageddon, that this is surely impractical. Nothing is impractical that ensures human survival, nothing certainly that ensures against civil disturbance degenerating into nuclear war.

I conclude with a word in praise of President George Bush. When he speaks of a new world order, I cannot suppose that he has explored either personally or by bureaucratic command its meaning and its requirements. But perhaps there was a justifying instinct behind the words — a sense that this is the time to start thinking about a safer and better world. Maybe those of us who are so forced to thought out over more than, unmercifully, we are inclined to concede. That, anyhow, in the president's own words, is accorded the ignorant.

The launching of a strong drive for education in the undeveloped lands — large-scale teacher training, building of schools, the bringing of the brighter prospects en masse to the developed countries for instruction — is a truly challenging enterprise. Much easier the hydroelectric dams. But let there be no doubt: education is a prime essential. Mr. Bush has expressed the hope that in the U.S. he might be called the education president; it is a hope, alas, that remains with the oratory.

There remains as regards a new world order the most pressing question of all: is it that the world itself survives. This need has now taken a new, dangerous and as yet

the snow-bound mountains on the Iranian frontier.

At least half a million refugees were moving towards Iran's Bakhtiari province northeast of Baghdad and many were risking deaths from cold or lack of food on their journey through the mountain passes, IRNA said.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani accused the United States and its allies of indifference towards the plight of Iraqis.

"It is surprising that they (coalition forces) are overlooking such heart-rending tragedies with an air of indifference," IRNA quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as telling visiting Swiss Foreign Minister René Feibler.

The remark was the closest Iran had come to calling for outright allied intervention in the unrest.

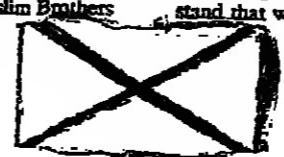
Baghdad has all but crushed the rebellions which swept the Shite south and the Kurdish north of the country.

In southern Iraq, IRNA said government forces continued to fight rebels with helicopters and heavy guns in Basra and nearby cities.

Explosions could be heard across the border in the Iranian port of Khorramshahr, it said.

The Iranian news agency IRNA reported that an 85-kilometre convoy of vehicles carrying Kurds was crawling towards

"The ministry wishes to carry out the restoration work as soon as possible," he told IRNA.



Weekender

March 4, 1991 A

Published Every Thursday

Dagger-making — a dying craft

By Debbie Lovatt

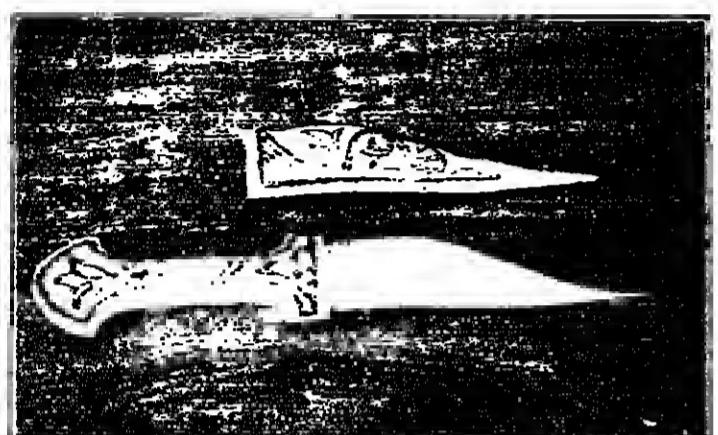
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Up a narrow street on the downtown side of Wadi Surour is Taher Abu Mohaisen's tiny one-room workshop. Every day — except Fridays — for 16 hours the 62 year old craftsman makes swords and daggers.

"I love my work. I made my first dagger when I was eight. My father had been taught by his father and then I learned the trade from

bim," said Mr. Abu Mohaisen proudly.

"Life was harder in the old days. I never went to school and I can't read or write," he chuckled.

"My grandfather started the business in 1800. He travelled around the country making and selling his goods. In those times the main trading centres were Tafilah, Karak, Ma'an, Ruweish and Amman. I was very young when we came to settle in Amman in 1932," said Mr.



An unfinished sterling silver knife with the design to be engraved marked out.



Daggers decorated with emblems and inlaid with semi-precious stones on display at the workshop.

Abu Mohaisen whilst piling onto a desk many examples of his work.

"In the old times my grandfather used to make swords and repair guns, as well as make daggers and knives," said the craftsman holding up the sunlight an old dagger about 50 centimetres long. "This is 200 years old," he contended.

"The knives and daggers are like the ones the bedouins used in the past to kill sheep or defend themselves from

wild animals or their enemies," Mr. Abu Mohaisen explained, obviously enjoying the gruesome picture he was conjuring up of a way of life now imitated by moviemakers and actors.

He continued: "Now tourists buy the knives for ornaments or souvenirs from tourist shops in town or in the big hotels. Not many Jordanians buy my things and I don't export because this is only a small business."

One silver dagger deco-

rated with copper and silver beading takes one day to make. But daggers made from sterling silver, which is less pliable than regular silver, and with a hilt carved from sheep or ox horn, take five days.

First the blade is crudely cut from metal, heated and then beaten into shape. It is filed and polished and then fixed to the hilt which is made from a single block of wood or horn. These two pieces are fixed together and encased with silver foil and copper foil before being decorated with engravings and silver beading. The sheath follows the same process as the hilt, but horn is not used for it, only wood.

Mr. Abu Mohaisen uses silver imported from Germany, Yugoslavia, Italy and sometimes Britain by a large trading company. "I don't import it myself because I only use very small amounts," explained the knife-maker.

Like other businesses in Jordan, this one has suffered from the Gulf crisis and consequent drop in tourism.



Taher Abu Mohaisen working on a new knife.

war.

On the wall in the workshop is a picture of His Majesty King Hussein being presented with an ornamental dagger. "In 1986 at the Jerash Festival the King was presented with a dagger I made. I've been exhibiting at the Jerash Festival for six years," said the proud craftsman.

In fact, Mr. Abu Mohaisen's 27 year old son, has not followed the family trade of three generations and did not seem bothered that "once my father dies in maybe ten years' time there will be no more workshop and no one will know how to make knives and daggers."

Magic in the shadow of the Pyramids

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — It is not easy to witness an Egyptian exorcism. You must first go through a complicated process, involving secret telephone numbers and meetings with fat Greek women in embroidered "djellabas" and overweight Syrians who look at you with pity — not because they think you foolish to believe in the powers of exorcism, but because they sympathise with you that you should need their services.

In Egypt, exorcism is strictly forbidden, both by the civil and by the religious authorities. The police distrust it, seeing it in a way of hoodwinking people to part with their money. The imams condemn it, since its power comes from hidden and hostile

places. Incidentally, you must be careful never to take flight to a room where there is water; the fear will open up a breach in your soul and the impure demons will enter into you."

As he talks, Mahmoud unwinds a long green thread and ties one end round the wrist of the woman who has asked to be exorcised. She says her husband has left her because of a curse put on her by his family. The other end of the long piece of string trails off into the apartment. A child, a small boy 6 or 7-year-old is playing with his tricycle and making a lot of noise. All around, people are drinking tea and talking about the weather. If it were not for the clouds of incense billowing out from a tripod, it could be a family gathering in any middle-class neighbourhood.

"Now," says Mahmoud. "Put the items of evil in a pot. Put the paper, the cotton, the tooth, the hair in a pot, fill it with sand and cover the sand with the ashes of the burnt money. Then you must go to the bank of the Nile, take a boat and, when you reach the middle of the river, throw the pot into the water. Only then will you be free from the evil spell ... And your husband will come back to you, more in love with you than ever."

The woman nods, entranced. She already seems calmer, and buoyed up by a deep faith she looks quite handsome.

Even the most skeptical onlooker is shaken. The objects — the paper, the cotton, the tooth and the hair — were far too large to have been contained inside the eggs. In any case, the eggs had been carefully examined beforehand, and everyone had agreed they seemed to be normal in every respect. And when the exorcism reached its climax, Mahmoud himself was at least 15 feet away from the woman and the eggs.

"What is there to question?" said the exorcist. "In this world, there are many things that men do not understand. Even educated men. Especially educated men."

He picks up a copy of the Koran, slips a key in between the pages and closes it tightly with an elastic band. "Come," he says to Sind, a woman who has been the most mocking member of the audience. "Slide your finger into the ring of the key. You will see with your own eyes that the Koran will answer



A woman seeking exorcism has been instructed to bring a plate of eggs for use in the ceremony.

you. Is this woman happy?" she murmurs. "If she is happy, turn to the right."

Slowly, moved by what appears to be some hidden force, the book pivots on the key and turns to the left. Sind lets out a cry and drops the book. "Don't be afraid," says Mahmoud, putting her finger back into the key. "Has someone cast a spell on this woman? If the answer is yes, turn to the left." The Koran turns slowly to the left. Sind shakes her head in disbelief and fury. "You don't believe it?" says Mahmoud. "You

love a man who does not love you, although he pretends to. But your greatest problem is your son, who is very unhappy at this moment."

"Who told you all this?" demands Sind, clearly upset. "Come with me." She obeys and follows Mahmoud into an adjoining room. In her hand, she takes three eggs, covered with symbols.

Mahmoud prays intensely, reciting a breathless and incomprehensible litany.

"Place the eggs on the ground," he says suddenly, in an urgent tone. Sind puts the eggs on a plate which the owner of the apartment has hurriedly brought the exorcist. "Break the eggs!" cries Mahmoud. The sound of crunching egg-shells indicates that Sind has done as he bids.

The smell — indescribable because it is unlike any other — lingers on, cloying and nauseating, the only thing that remains to remind us that this bizarre Egyptian exorcism really happened —

World News Link.

Englishman's castle seeks new owner

By Charlotte Cooper

Reuter

ESHER, England — Looking for your perfect home? Ever thought of turning a ruin into your dream castle?

New is your chance — some of Britain's historic buildings are up for sale.

For a mere £450,000 (\$860,000) you could be the proud owner of Waynflete Tower, a 15th century house in Esher on the southwest outskirts of London.

As owner you would be in good company — for Waynflete tower formed a leafy riverside retreat in the 1500s for England's King Henry VIII, famed for his six wives, and a tryst for the spinster Queen Elizabeth I and her lover, according to its estate agents.

"Dong up" and old house was popular with Britons when property boomed in the 1980s but hundreds of historically important houses across the country still urgently need renovation, according to the charity group Save Britain's Heritage.

Save campaigns for the preservation and reuse of historic buildings it considers important to Britain's heritage. It recently published a report calling nobody's home detailing some 150 derelict places in need of rescue.

"This is the tip of the iceberg," Clare Norman, the report's author, said at Save's office in Battersea, London.

Catalogued with Waynflete

Tower are countless old churches, mansions, an 1880 railway station decorated with Victorian iron work and a 400-year-old

ham.

The charity has published similar reports before and managed to rescue some buildings.

Andrew Blagden of Hamptons Estate Agents in Esher said that during the 1980s housing boom everybody wanted to "do up" property.

For a mere £450,000 (\$860,000) you could be the proud owner of Waynflete Tower, a 15th century house in Esher on the southwest outskirts of London.

If you ploughed it up — wisely — you would probably sell it two years on for a £200,000 (\$350,000) profit.

Now the property market has slumped and historic homes are harder to sell — especially the less attractive buildings.

Restoring houses can be fraught with problems. Potential buyers can be put off by the expense and the volume of work needed. Building restrictions are there to qualify for government protection known as listing.

Listing is designed to retain the building's character and some, like Waynflete Tower, cannot be knocked down. Local authority permission is needed for any alterations, external or internal.

Waynflete itself has a layer upon layer of architectural history. While the original structure dates back to 1478, one recent owner, a 1950s film actress, added a 1920s wood panelled lift and a pink bathroom suite complete with art deco taps.

Preserving character in renovation is important. "You've got real enthusiasts who've got the historical nature of the building at heart," Norman said.

Amateur medievalist Roy

Grant, seeking a suitable setting for his medieval art collection, took on the conversion challenge independent of Save. He converted a derelict 12th century Norman chapel into a replica medieval manor.

The church, now St Oswald's Hall on the outskirts of York — a former Viking settlement in northern England — was built at the time of the Christian crusades in the Middle East.

Grant put St Oswald's to commercial use, running musical evenings, medieval dramas and feasts using medieval recipes.

The conversion took two years and required the present Queen Elizabeth's permission because the building was once a church. The queen is titular head of the Church of England.

Now St Oswald's is up for sale for £250,000 (\$477,800). Grant has found a retirement project — a house he wants to restore in the ancient Italian town of Assisi.

Blagden says there will always be demand for unusual property in good condition. "I've even sold Victorian water towers," he adds.

Why do the British love to convert old places? Hard to say, but Save's Norman said: "We're not a great nation of modernists who want to live in a wacky modern house."

"It's nice to think you've taken something and made it better and kept it for future generations," she added.

Said Blagden: "People love to be surrounded with history and charm, and the fact that they bang their head every night when they go through a low door — it's all just part of living in an old house."

U.K. teenagers are not rebels like their parents

By Peter Millership

Reuter

LONDON — British teenagers are more interested in making money than rebelling against the establishment and espousing great causes, according to a survey by one of Britain's top banks.

It found that teenagers generally shun walking on the wild side of life like many of their parents did in the era of the Beatles, the mini-skirt and a string of writers called "The Angry Young Men."

"They reject teenage icons and stereotyping, and unlike their parents' youth generation there are no rebels and very few causes," said Frank Wilson, youth marketing manager of the Trustee Savings Bank (TSB).

TSB sought the opinions of youngsters who entered their teens during the 11-year premiership of Margaret Thatcher — high priestess of thrift, hard work and self-help.

The bank discovered a "common sense" generation of teenagers who want to be independent and frequently use cash rather than drift into credit.

The survey of 2,700 youngsters aged 14 to 17 showed they appreciated cleverness and humour in advertising but were cynical of gimmicks.

They were more likely to spend money on drinks and tapes, CDs and the cinema. "School-leavers positively reject the idea of credit and overdrafts and even cheque

books can represent a loss of control," Wilson said.

"Cash is the favoured method of payment with teenagers preferring to make frequent visits to the cash dispenser to withdraw small amounts."

The pursuit of wealth figured highly in the teenagers' approach to life.

"Time and time again school-leavers interviewed told us being in control of their money gave them greater self-confidence to tackle life in the adult world," said Wilson.

"Teenagers recognise that they are part of a do-it-yourself society," Wilson said. "They want to stand on their own two feet and do not expect state hand-outs as a matter of course."

Love thy neighbour—or move

By Maha Addasi

You can choose a piece of land in a deserted area and build a house on it, away from people, noise and pollution, where you would savour true privacy. Until one day you blink and what materialises almost before your very eyes is the pop, pop, pop of buildings being constructed near and around your house. Before long the building dust settles, the screeching bulldozers disappear, the droning of cement barrels subside, and the boisterous workers are no longer there. Soon an entire community finds its way into your privacy arena. Long gone the days when you sipped coffee staring at a beautiful view with nothing standing between you and the horizon.

We hate to break it to you, but your days as a self-choosing hermit are over. That is not the half of it though, because with this newly founded "colony" you wake up one day and lo and behold you have neighbours!

That is when your troubles begin, because now you will be flung into a trying experience. You are robbed of your privacy in many ways. From now on noise pollution is her to stay.

A friend of mine describes her neighbours like this: "They have at least eight children per family all below school age, and they are only happy when they do things like swing my kitten by the tail and spin it around. They never tire like the alkaline battery, but if someone is ever sick there are plenty more children to go around. That is not all. When our trees bear fruit, they know just the right time to pick the apples and pears, sometimes just a couple of hours before us. It's like weeding the garden only they leave the weeds."

"And of course their glass sharp shrieking while they're playing has become part of our daily 'special effects.'

Another man said: The saying that goes, 'just because you are not paranoid doesn't mean they are not out to get you' applies to me perfectly.

"I sometimes feel I will go insane. If I don't hear any kids screaming I think I've gone deaf. When I see them climbing on my garden wall I get nasty ideas like placing some barbed wire around the house. The ultimate intrusion of my privacy comes when the neighbour decides to park the car in my parking spot. I just hit the roof and stay in a bad mood for as much as a week."

"My neighbours are unique," said one lady. "They can irritate us for days on end, but when they need to borrow a hammer or something they have no qualms about knocking on our door and asking. Sometimes I feel like hitting them with the hammer so that maybe they can get the hint that it is worth it to buy their own tools."

It is no wonder that religions stress the "love thy neighbour" part, because some neighbours can try your patience enough so that you can barely tolerate them, let alone love them.



There are, of course, neighbours who turn into life-time friends, and friends who turn into life-time enemies when they live next door.

Unfortunately there are no long term solutions but believe me nomads did not move around a great deal because of the scarcity of water. Somehow there is always that nagging feeling that neighbours had a lot to do with it. So for temporary relief, do what the nomads did. Move. If you cannot "love thy neighbour."

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 4

8:30 Day By Day

What I Did For Love
Chris is in love with Christine who happens to be 4 years his senior and unresponsive. But dad intervenes with a lecture on the facts of life.

9:10 Black Forest Clinic

The Harmless Lie

Dr. Bergman has to deal with a doctor who happens to be a failure in medicine and so it takes a harmless lie to do it.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise

The Secret
Mr. Gant is a dishonest man living in Paradise. He gets killed after a disagreement with Ethan and now Ethan has to find the killer to clear his name.

Monday, April 8

8:30 Golden Girls

The Tin Star
Blanche decides to become a writer. There is nothing wrong with that, but, what about the inspiration?

9:10 Inside Story

American millionaire John is back in his original country England, and is determined to buy the Sunday Register newspaper from its owner who is low on cash.

Friday, April 5

8:30 Night Court

The young judge, Harold, surprises everyone with his youthful behaviour and attitude, but the biggest surprise is when this method of judging works.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 Derrick

Herr Hossner is murdered and suspicion centres around a thief who was unfortunate enough to be working that night. Derrick's investigation puts things right.

Tuesday, April 9

8:30 Charles In Charge

Sarah visits her cousins, there she finds a Romanian guest and realises that his stay is doing the family some good.

9:10 Documentary

New Zealand — The Rose And The Dragon

A visit to New Zealand, the land of volcanoes, and herds of sheep, fish and the breathtaking natural scenery of its islands. And that is not all we are going to enjoy and learn about New Zealand.

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Film

Wednesday, April 10

8:30 After Henry

Wedding Bells

The granddaughter of one of our grandmother's friends is getting married. That's an occasion our grandmother always likes.

9:10 Our House

First Impressions

Mother and daughter learn that first impressions can be quite deceiving.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Love And Hate

After winning the election, Joanne's former husband intensifies his efforts to win back his daughter, and even plots to murder his ex-wife.

Sunday, April 7

8:30 Mother And Son

The Money

Arthur discovers that his mother is in possession of a big amount of money stashed somewhere in the house. Now the situation requires his intervention.

9:10 All Our Children

School Days



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Intruder

By E. Yaghi

A stylish party was being held in an elegant white quartz stone house in the centre of a super elite neighbourhood. The mansion stood on the top of a hill where various flowers and green growing plants surrounded it. On the wall encircling the stately house climbed violet lilac vines. The time was early evening. A first spring shower gently fell on the street, house and green things growing all around. The scent of budding lilacs occupied the cool night air while an orange moon gave off a bright fluorescent light.

Inside, dark skinned maids rushed around trying to meet the demands of the honoured guests whose loud laughter quaked the house. Everyone who was anyone had arrived at the invitation of the exalted Farouk. A mixture of expensive perfumes and men's colognes blended and mixed with the odor of food, filling the otherwise stale atmosphere. Women wearing the latest fashions dictated by a Parisian baboon, strutted about, vainly displaying their fancy attire as their sharp heels click-clacked on the shiny marble floor. Female socialites were entertained by attentive men who pumped at them the best of their wit and made clever jokes displaying their talented art of flirtation.

The gathering was the first of the season, a celebration of the birth of spring and death of barren winter. Farouk presided as host to his social crowd and reigned over his party cracking senseless jokes to all he approached or false flattery such as: "My, Hadieel, you're stunning tonight," he bleated, stopping by a group of women, "and you, Reem, as beautiful as ever," and he rambled on, passing off compliments or wit to as many as he could.

Later on, in the midst of raised voices, sharp laughter and dim thinking, a stranger entered the spacious chambers where the guests were gathered. His frame filled the doorway and he seemed to have an aura of dignity and radiance. His gray hair, shoulder length, reached down his neck where it ended in loose curls. His eyes were large and bright and in them shone a strange light. In his right hand, he clutched a long staff. But his clothes were drastically lacking in the style of the party. Perhaps he was a shepherd or something similar as testified by his long tunic, dusty feet and leather sandals. When he spoke, his voice bellowed. At first all eyes centred on him, but his lack of fashion cut the span of the guests' attention and they returned to their bursts of sudden laughter and loud conversation. Unconscious of the un-wanted visitor and satisfied with his party's success, Farouk sat gloating on one of many black velvet sofas. The stranger scrutinised him and uninvited approached, plunging himself down beside the host. "Nice party you have going here," he said to Farouk, his sharp eyes penetrating, "I've come a long way and I just want to rest my weary bones before resuming my journey."

"Where are you from, my good man?" Farouk said with a smirk on his face and a sneer in his voice. "It does indeed seem you've come from another time and by far another place not quite equal to the affairs of my castle," and he gave a loud laugh, his mouth parting broadly.

"Indeed," the intruder replied, "I have come from another world, another time and from different surroundings, but I heard the laughter of your guests shaking the ground while I was walking so I thought you wouldn't mind my stopping here for a respite."

"Well, sir, you aren't exactly dressed for my party as you can well see. I do have certain standards to maintain and my guests tend to frown on outmoded appearances," Farouk said as his eyes narrowed in continuing disapproval and grew colder. "Tell me, my friend, how about a piece of bread and you'll return to your sheep?"

The stranger's eyes studied Farouk's mocking face and with a deep voice said, "I can assure you sir, that I am not a beggar. Personally, I have no claims on your generous hospitality and will soon leave so I won't dampen the spirit of your party. But beware, your life is empty, your heart shallow and your soul lost. The hungry and poor live just beyond your doorstep with no food to fill their vacant stomachs and no shelter to protect their cold bodies, yet, they find happiness in simple blessings unintelligible to such as you. Couldn't you find within you a grain of mercy in which to share some of your wealth with those less fortunate? Your generosity would mean more to you than hollow social gatherings and wasted money." His anger rising, the stranger continued: "My God, man, you spend a fortune feeding people who are already full! Why not spend a small fraction instead to provide some ample portions for those less fortunate."

Farouk's expression changed. He paled and with shock glared at the intruder. "Just who are you?" he demanded. "Why you're nothing but a beggar looking for a handout. I've got no time for you. Here, take these coins and be off. Besides, I can't be seen talking to the likes of you," he said as he fumbled in his pocket for a few piasters. "I speak for your conscience and my name is Truth. I merely ask you to seek me at all times and in all things. Do not forsake me or deny me as you have been, for if you do, your life will be even more shallow than it already is. With your money, you can perform great miracles, heal the sick, feed the poor, establish institutions of learning and by giving, you will receive far more, for you will enrich your heart as well as your fellow man and your name will be cherished on the lips of the downtrodden and blessed by angels in heaven," the intruder said as his face grew somber and his manner imploring.

Farouk looked around nervously. Had anyone seen him speaking to this barbaric person who didn't know how to dress or talk? The man must be mad, a demented shepherd who by living only with sheep had lost touch with reality. The real and glorious world was right here in his magnificent house with his elite and classy friends. His success was reflected in his guests laughing faces and ringing conversation. What did this insignificant soul know of truth or the important things in life? Surely, Farouk thought, his intelligence could be no more than that of his sheep. He must call his servants and have them throw this impudent out. But, when he turned back around to glare at his unwanted intruder, he found he wasn't there. He searched for him, but he couldn't find him. Farouk went back to the sofa where he had been sitting and discovered the staff of Truth propped against the couch. He grabbed the staff in an effort to throw it out of the door, but like a magnet, it held him fast and a strange feeling ebbed through his body. For the first time, he saw felt the waves of truth. He must speak it from now on. He must live it. His eyes travelled from one end of the hall to the other. He suddenly saw his guests shallow, their talk without purpose, their dwellings some hungry cold folk waiting for a grain of his mercy and a gift of his love. How very lucky that he had met Truth! He could hardly wait for tomorrow to come for there was much work to do. For the rest of his life, Farouk vowed to forever seek Truth and spend his money and time helping the less fortunate.

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1991

Profits of Credit Suisse fall by third

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Credit Suisse, Switzerland's third-largest commercial bank, has posted a 31 per cent drop group net profit in 1990.

Net profit fell to million Swiss francs (\$399 million) last year from 783 million francs (\$580 million) in 1989, the bank said.

Consequently, Credit Suisse said it would propose cutting its dividend on 1990 earnings. It didn't specify how much.

The bank attributed the drop in net profit to a sharp decline in earnings from securities trading.

Credit Suisse Chairman Robert Jeker described the decline as exceptional, and forecast that 1991 earnings would return to the "good levels we achieved in 1989."

Cash flow of Credit Suisse, a unit of C.S. Holding was down 20 per cent last year at 1.18 billion francs (\$1.09 billion).

Atari may build computers in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S.-based Atari Corp. plans to invest \$150 million to make personal computers and electronic games in Israel, if the government invests in producing components, the industry ministry said Tuesday.

"It is a breakthrough in foreign investment," ministry director-general Zvi Koren told Israel radio.

But he said the Atari proposal depended on the establishment of factories to make parts for the Atari products, such as printed circuit boards and software, and serve other computer and electronic firms.

Such a support network would cost \$75 to \$100 million, the ministry said. Koren said the cabinet could discuss the investment proposal as soon as next week.

The government is not giving

more money. It is giving guarantees for loans. If the industry is successful, then it will not cost the government anything. In the event the industry fails, the government will share the losses," he

Recession eats at Fortune 500 corporations

NEW YORK (AP) — The recession dogged the U.S. biggest companies last year, but General Motors Corp. (G.M.) stayed no. 1 despite \$2 billion in losses, Fortune magazine said in its annual list of 500 top corporations.

A competing ranking by Forbes magazine of what it calls the "most powerful" American companies ignored G.M. entirely because the automaker didn't make any money in 1990.

The weakened economy was the dominant theme in the rankings. Fortune said half of the 50 largest industrial companies on its list lost money or earned less. Overall, Fortune 500 profits fell 11.7 per cent, even though sales rose 6.1 per cent.

G.M. with over \$126 billion in revenues, retained the top spot despite a 0.8 per cent drop in sales. Ford Motor Co. slipped to no. 3 and Chrysler Corp. tumbled three spots to no. 11, reflecting a sour performance by the auto industry.

Fortune bases its list on total sales and rates only industrial companies. The magazine also compiles separate rankings of the companies by profits, assets, stockholder equity and other financial indicators.

Exxon Corp. rose to second place in sales on the Fortune list. Completing the top 10 were International Business Machines Corp. (IBM), Mobil Corp., General Electric Co., Philip Morris Cos., Texaco Inc., Dupont and Chevron Corp.

Forbes also ranks 500 companies by sales, profits, assets and market value. To distinguish itself from Fortune, it does a composite ranking across all categories to determine the "super 50." On the composite list, General Electric Co. replaced G.M. as Forbes' "most powerful" com-

bate not risen since peaking at \$255.0 billion last October.

Benz said he was concerned not only that "big-ticket" durable orders fell, but also that orders for non-durable goods including apparel and household goods declined.

"There doesn't seem to be any demand by businesses or consumers at this point," he said.

Orders for durable goods — big-ticket items ranging from cars to computers expected to last more than three years — slipped 0.3 per cent to \$117.5 billion. It was the third decline in the last four months, including a 2.0 per cent drop in January.

When aircraft orders are ex-

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Experts find key substance for blood clotting

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists have discovered a protein that plays a key role in blood clotting, an advance that could lead to new medicines for preventing heart attacks and strokes.

The protein binds to a natural substance called Thrombin as the initial step in producing blood clots, which can cause heart attacks and strokes when they block blood vessels.

The discovery was reported Friday in the journal *Cell* by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco. Further research may lead to new medicines that block formation of blood clots without the side effects of current drugs, study co-author Dr. Shaun Coughlin said.

The scientists reported that they had isolated the genetic material that lets cells produce the protein, called a Thrombin receptor. The receptor sits on the surface of blood cells called Platelets.

Thrombin, which is produced by blood vessels in response to injury, binds to this Receptor. That makes platelets clump together, which is the initial step in clot formation. Coughlin said in a telephone interview.

The scientists showed that the newfound protein made cells respond to Thrombin.

mical makeup of the protein.

Drugs that block the binding of Thrombin to the receptor may be able to prevent formation of clots with fewer side effects than current Thrombin-inhibiting medications, Coughlin said. That is because such drugs would not block beneficial effects of Thrombin that do not require the receptor, he said.

Those effects include causing production of another protein that discourages clot formation, he said. Normally that anti-clot action appears to be important in regulating Thrombin's effects, although its importance in blocking clots that lead to strokes and heart attacks is not known, he said.

The Thrombin receptor also appears on smooth muscle cells that line blood vessels and play a role in atherosclerosis, a narrowing of the passageway for blood within arteries that sets the stage for heart attacks and strokes. Thrombin stimulates growth of the cells.

Doctors often treat atherosclerosis by removing the bumpy plaques on the inside of the blood vessels. But sometimes the arteries become narrowed again because of growth of the smooth muscle cells. The new finding may aid research into this process, Coughlin said.

By Anne Dastakian
Reuter

PRAGUE — President Václav Havel and his wife Olga are trying to help stave off the collapse of Czechoslovakia's state health system.

Havel last month donated \$130,000 of his own money — foreign royalties from plays and prizes he has collected over the past year — to the Czech and Slovak regional health ministries to help them buy drugs they cannot afford.

His wife runs a charity goodwill foundation, on whose behalf she frequently accepts gifts from abroad of much-needed medical equipment and drugs intended for use in the hospital treatment of children.

By Alistair McIntosh
Reuter

BANGKOK — Thailand's new military-installed government is declaring war on the country's infamous sex industry and the spread of the deadly AIDS virus.

"Sex tourists are no longer welcome here," declared veteran social reformer Mechai Viravadya, minister of the prime minister's office in the new cabinet.

"We are telling them to go back home and exploit their own women and children," he said in an interview.

Thousands of foreign men — mainly from Western Europe, Australia, the United States and Japan — flock to Thailand every year in search of cheap sex. They don't have to look far.

Sleazy bars and massage parlours abound in the capital, Bangkok, and one Western resident described the Thai resort of Pattaya as "Sodom and Gomorrah by the sea."

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, whose administration was installed by a military junta which took power in a February coup,

They would like to bring this into the open by having private practices.

"People can't afford a paying health care before health insurance is introduced" in 1992 Czech Regional Health Minister Martin Bojar told Reuters in an interview.

However, medical facilities are coming under increasing strain. The health service faces acute financial problems and a chronic lack of some drugs, too expensive to be bought abroad since the devaluation of the crown currency last year.

Many low-paid doctors managed under the Communists to augment their incomes by black market work.

A 44-year-old highly respected psychiatrist and

neurologist, Bojar was appointed health minister for the Czech Republic last June.

Energetic and much in demand, he will even give interviews in his car en route to answer questions in the Czech parliament rather than cancel a chance to expound his views.

Bojar recently said prescription charges will probably go up from a token one crown (3.5 cents) to five crowns (18 cents), hospital care will be charged at 30 crowns (\$1.07) a day and abortions, currently free and available almost on demand, will cost 3,000 crowns (\$110), slightly less than the average monthly wage.

The parents of a four-year-old child, Patrik Polansky, recently appealed through the media for money that could buy him a liver transplant, an operation that can-

not be performed in Czechoslovakia.

Bojar said the end of the state monopoly on medicine, free choice of one's doctor and allowing the partly private practice of doctors should stimulate health care.

He cites the Canadian and Dutch health systems as models for the reforms he is trying to implement. By 1992, medicine will be financed jointly by insurance, local authorities and the state.

But there is much to be done in the meantime. Czechoslovakia has one of the highest numbers of medical personnel per capita in Europe, but hospitals are inefficient.

Nurses often have to perform tasks carried out by

unskilled staff in other countries and doctor's duties include some that in the West are considered nurses' jobs.

Bojar's budget this year, to provide comprehensive health care for around 10 million people, is 28 billion crowns (\$1 billion), eight percent more than in 1990.

But officials in his ministry estimate that about half the total amount will be needed to compensate for the higher cost of drugs and equipment following the freeing of price controls which came into effect at the beginning of this year.

The budget will have to be revised every three months so that funds can be directed to the most urgent needs, they say.

male," he said.

"We want to educate Thai women so they will no longer be so tolerant when their men go off to sex places."

Prime Minister Anan, addressing a gathering of poor and handicapped Thais at government house last week, said that every day 450,000 Thai men visited prostitutes and half of them did not use condoms.

Mechai, Thailand's leading anti-AIDS campaigner before his cabinet appointment, said Thailand would face a huge programme of education about the virus.

paign would be presented shortly to the new National Assembly.

"But no one should doubt we are very, very serious about this," he said.

Tourism is the nation's biggest foreign currency earner but Mechai, who is also chairman of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, said it did not need money from sex-hungry men.

But he made it clear it was not just foreigners the new administration wanted to discourage.

"We also want to work on the attitude of the Thai

men," he said.

Thousands of foreign men — mainly from Western Europe, Australia, the United States and Japan — flock to Thailand every year in search of cheap sex. They don't have to look far.

Some estimates put the number of women working as prostitutes as high as 700,000. Others say there are 200,000 child prostitutes.

The Public Health Ministry estimates 200,000 people throughout Thailand are infected with the virus which causes the deadly acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, spread through sexual contact or drug addicts sharing needles.

A United Nations official has said that Thailand, with nearly 60 million people, faces a "tragedy of devastating power" if it does not do more to stem the spread of AIDS.

Mechai said one of the main ways the government would tackle prostitution would be to discourage new recruits to the world's oldest profession.

Local companies were already being approached to provide jobs for girls from poor families who might otherwise turn to selling their bodies, Mechai said.

He said further details of the anti-prostitution cam-

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King

(Continued from page 1)

right and this is our responsibility, the responsibility of all Jordanians who are concerned about mankind and about the world environment."

"I believe that it was possible to avert war and to solve the crisis peacefully and I believe that the peoples of the world respect Jordan's stand, but those who misunderstand Jordan's position have been victims of lies and falsehoods fabricated against this country," the King said.

"Sooner or later matters will clear up, and then these people will feel guilty for adopting such attitudes towards Jordan," he added.

"Jordanians will continue to have their heads raised high despite the dimension of the suffering they face," the King said.

In Bonn, German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher described the King's visit as important and said it helped to clear matters for the European Council meeting scheduled April 8.

The German Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that Germany and Jordan agree that the present opportunity for peace should not be missed.

During his visit to France, King Hussein discussed the consequence of the Gulf war on Jordan as well as the Arab-Israeli conflict.

According to Petra, the French and Jordanian sides agreed to work together at the regional and international levels to find solutions for the Middle East question.

The King was accompanied on the visit by Royal Court Chief Sheriff Zeid Ben Shaker, Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

France

(Continued from page 1)

could not endorse such a failure," he said.

Mr. Mittelstaedt, who has called for a Kurdish settlement to be part of a comprehensive Middle East peace, supported the Kurds' demands for autonomy. He said they were entitled to have their own identity, language and culture within existing borders.

Mr. Duman said Paris had protested to President Saddam Hussein through the Soviet Union which represents Iraqi interests since Baghdad severed relations during the Gulf war.

He said France had started and would continue giving Kurds humanitarian aid through countries bordering Iraq.

The 12 European Community governments Wednesday denounced Iraq's handling of the rebellions as brutal and said only dialogue could unify the country.

"The community and its member states are very deeply concerned at the situation of the civilian population in Iraq, notably the Kurds and the Shiites," the governments said in a joint statement.

"They firmly condemn the brutal repression being imposed upon these population groups, bringing about a flow of refugees towards the neighbouring countries," it added.

Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher urged the British government to send emergency humanitarian aid to help Kurdish refugees.

After meeting Kurdish exiles, Mrs. Thatcher said Kurds trapped on the Turkish border needed urgent help.

"It should not be beyond the wit of man to get planes there with tents, with food and with warm blankets," she said.

"I think we should take very firm steps. It is not a question of standing on legal niceties. We should go now," Mrs. Thatcher said, speaking to reporters.

The United States promised Wednesday to urgently consider humanitarian aid for Iraqi refugees once a Gulf war ceasefire resolution was approved by the United Nations Security Council.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering has "been instructed, immediately following passage of the ceasefire resolution, to pursue, on an urgent basis, Security Council action to address these pressing concerns," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tuerk told reporters.

She did not commit Washington to any specific course of action other than humanitarian assistance but said: "We want to find the most effective means for the United Nations to express its condemnation of the brutality taking place in Iraq and its determination to do what it can to address this situation."

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata demanded Wednesday that Turkey open its borders for fleeing Kurds.

Resolution

(Continued from page 1)

not our purpose. It never was our purpose."

"I do not want to see us get sucked into the internal struggle in Iraq," Mr. Bush said, adding that he did not want "to commit our men and our women to further combat."

"We've done the heavy lifting," Mr. Bush said.

In Jupiter, Florida, President George Bush said he was increasingly frustrated by reports of the violence in Iraq and said he would be willing to take a "new look" at relations with Baghdad if Iraq's army overthrew President Saddam.

"I would be willing to take a new look if the army took matters into its own hands," Mr. Bush told reporters as he was ending a four-day holiday in Florida.

Erbil firmly back in government hands

By Wafa Amr
The Associated Press

ERBIL, Iraq — The smoke of battle still drifted in the air Tuesday and bodies were still lying in the streets patrolled by Republican Guards.

Erbil was back in the hands of the Iraqi army, which seemed to be on its way to recapturing northern Iraq after quelling the rebellion against the government of President Saddam Hussein in the south.

There was the distant sound of gunfire and artillery. But Erbil police chief Qassem Al Duri told reporters the exchange "was far away from Erbil in the mountains where the Iraqi army was driving out the remaining rebels."

Foreign journalists toured the ancient Kurdish city of Erbil, about 500 kilometers north of Baghdad, Tuesday, three days after the Iraqi army took over the city from Kurdish rebels.

Erbil was almost deserted except for the army and some families who were returning to their homes after having fled the fighting. Families in traditional Kurdish costumes carried what belongings they had and walked back home.

The army seemed in complete control of the city that had been in the hands of Kurdish rebels since March 11.

"The Kurdish militias ended Kurdistan's self-rule at 7 a.m. on March 11. They carried machine guns, rocket launchers and light weapons. They fired from rooftops," said Tawfiq Oweiz, a Kurdish resident.

He said he heard "intensive fighting and the sound of helicopters. I saw the rebels seal Erbil's central shopping centre and burn it."

Mr. Oweiz said there was little opposition from the people when the rebels entered the city so they easily controlled it. He said they came in cars and on foot from the mountains in the north.

"Around 100,000 militiamen entered the city and started looting and destroying," said Adel Kakyos, head of administration department of Salabeddin University.

He said they killed many ruling Baath Party members and their families.

Dzahem Kurdi, a government employee, said he was "terrorised by the inhumane actions of the rebels. They rounded up families and shot them."

Mr. Duri, the chief of police said, "the rebels killed families and seized their houses to use as headquarters."

The rebels had accused the Iraqi troops of committing atrocities against innocent civilians and against Kurds in the north and Shiites in the north that they suspected of taking part in the rebellion.

Foreign reporters unable to cover most of the fighting cannot verify any of the claims independently.

Mr. Duri said the rebels included about 20 different political groups, however their aims were not clear.

"Their aims were contradictory. They were not sure what they wanted to achieve and whenever residents approached them with their demands, they were confused and did not know how to respond," he said.

However, a Kurd who spoke on condition of anonymity said the \$00,000 Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan "wanted a change in the government."

The chief of police said most of the rebels were army deserters; ex-criminals, outlaws and brain-washed kids. They all came from the Iranian border, he said.

Army tanks and soldiers were camped on the city's outskirts. A pile of seized weapons were guarded by Iraqi soldiers. More than 100 pro-government Kurdish militiamen were also camped at the city's entrance.

Traces of the battle were evident on the outskirts of the city. There were burned army tanks and trucks, scores of soldiers at checkpoints. There was smoke in the air.

At the city's entrance, in front of what seemed to be an army base, four Kurdish men were held prisoner with their hands tied behind their backs. They were surrounded by soldiers waiting.

Inside Erbil, both anti-government and pro-government slogans covered the walls. Shop windows were broken, schools were destroyed and ashes covered the ground. All government buildings were destroyed and burned.

The rebels started with schools and government buildings, said one soldier.

There were a dozen dead bodies, some bloated and others burned, still lying in the streets.

A helicopter flew over the city as well as an American fighter plane that flew very low.

The police station in Erbil seemed to serve as the Iraqi Communist Party's headquarters before the army entered. The hammer and sickle symbol were drawn on a wall in red and also in red, the words "Iraqi Communist Headquarters" was painted above the door.

Army trucks carried Kurds returning to their homes. One soldier said Iraqi military helicopters threw leaflets advising Erbil residents to leave the city before the army entered.

"We did not want to harm the citizens," the soldier said.

The Republican Guards, all very young men, roamed the city streets.

"We fought in Kuwait and now we have come from Karbala and Kirkuk. We drove rebels out completely," said one Republican Guard.

Another said it took them two days to recapture the city. "It was an easy task," he said.

Ramadan: A month to affirm one's faith

By Giles Tredre

One night in the year 601, a middle-aged merchant by the name of Mohammad was sitting, in pensive mood, in a cave on a hill just outside of Mecca, as was his wont, when he heard a voice amid a sound of clangings bells calling him to: "Recite in the name of your Lord..."

This exhortation to proclaim God's message, which marks the birth of Islam as a religion and proved to be the first of many that the unlettered merchant from Mecca was to receive, came in the Arabic month of Ramadan.

Fourteen years later, Mohammad and his 300 followers, invigorated by their new faith, defeated a 1,000-strong force of

Meccans at a village called Badr, some 300 kilometers north of Mecca. This success, which was to prove to be Islam's first and decisive military victory, also took place in the auspicious month of Ramadan.

The divine call to Mohammad and the earthly victory at Badr, both taking place in the month of Ramadan, marked out that month as special in the eyes of those early Muslims. Ramadan was thus declared as holy and was set aside as a month in which Muslims should affirm their faith by fasting.

From sunrise until sunset in Ramadan nothing should pass between the lips of a Muslim, in-

cluding all food, liquids, tobacco products and even chewing gum, and Muslims should refrain from sexual intercourse. Time should be given instead to greater religious reflection, praying and reading from the Koran.

Growing children, pregnant and nursing mothers, soldiers on duty, and the chronically sick are, however, exempt from fasting. For the rest, the daylight fast, particularly if the weather is hot, is an exacting duty. Temps often grow shorter in this month and the energy levels of fasters decrease, thereby accounting for a slower, more muted pace of life.

Like the common performance of worship, and the pilgrimage to Mecca, the Ramadan fast unifies all Muslims from every part of the world.

the cannon sounds from the high walls of the citadel. Having been relatively drowsy throughout the day, Cairo awakens after the iftar and the revelries and festivities begin. The narrow lanes in and around Midan Hussein, near Khan Al Khalili, are particularly lively and colourful during Ramadan, including wandering bands of musicians, magicians (the gala gal), men) and a whole host of other street entertainers.

Ramadan is a particularly colourful affair. The traditional symbol of the holy month is the multi-coloured glass lantern, the tanour, which is hung and sold on many streets all over the city. The bright lights and instrument ensembles an even greater feeling of gaiety among Egyptians towards strangers.

A foreigner who wishes his Muslim friend or acquaintance a happy holiday, by saying koul sana ou mta tayib (every year may you be well), will undoubtedly be showered with thanks and gratitude.

The merrymaking often goes on all night up until the final meal, suhoor, before the dawn prayer which will mark the beginning of the new day's fast.

Ramadan is celebrated all over the Middle East and even beyond.

Coming on the heels of a major war in the region which has seen the Arab World bitterly divided, the holy month could prove even more significant than usual — Middle East Times.

Al Raiyan

By E. Yaghi

WHEN Ramadan begins, the gates of paradise are opened, the gates of hell are closed and the devils are chained. On the Day of Resurrection, all those who observed fasting will enter through a gate of paradise called Al Raiyan. Only those who observed the fasts will enter this gate and after their entry, the gate will be closed and entry by others will be prohibited.

Although all practices of worship are for God, God singles out fasting as the only act truly performed for his sake: for fasting cannot be practised for the sake of showing off as nobody can know whether one is fasting or not except God. Therefore, fasting is a pure performance that cannot be blemished with hypocrisy.

Once again, Ramadan is upon us. It is a time of introspection and assessment of Islamic faith. In Islam, fasting is an abstention from things of material nature, such as food, drink, smoking, etc. in order to have spiritual joys and moral nourishment. While the Muslim empties his stomach, he fills his heart with love and sympathy, his spirit with piety and faith and his mind with wisdom and resolution.

The purpose of fasting in other religions and philosophies is invariably partial. It is either for spiritual aims or physical needs or intellectual cultivations but never for a combination of all the above factors. However, in Islam, fasting is for all these gains as well as for many other purposes such as social and economic, moral and humanitarian, private and public and inner as well as outer, all combined together.

Islamic fasting is often accompanied by extra devotion and worship, extra charity and study of the Holy Koran and extra self-discipline and conscience awakening. Fasting is not a retreat from life but a penetration with spiritual armaments, a moral enrichment. Fasting does not break the faithful but rather harmonises his existence.

The occurrence of Ramadan fluctuates throughout the years because the Islamic calendar is based on lunar months which are in accordance with the va-

rious positions of the moon. This means that over a period of a number of years, Islamic fasting covers the 4 major seasons and circulates back and forth between summer and winter, fall and spring in a titillating manner. Hence, the Muslim experience of fasting on several levels and vibrant climates, sometimes in the winter of short and cold days, sometimes in the summer of long hot days and sometimes in between. During the month of Ramadan, the daily period of fasting starts before the break of dawn and ends immediately after sunset. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Failure to observe it without a reasonable excuse is a punishable sin by God.

Fasting is compulsory for every Muslim male and female who is mentally and physically fit or sane and able. Any one who fasts must be full age. Children under this age should be encouraged to start fasting on easy levels so by the time they reach puberty, they will be mentally and physically able to fast.

Those who are exempted from fasting are then, children under age, the insane, the aged who cannot physically fast and the sick who may postpone their fast and make up for it at a later date when able. Expectant and nursing mothers may not fast if there is a danger to their health or their infants, but they must also make up for days missed. Fasting may not also be performed by any person who is not fitter.

Fasting is a shield. The fasting person should not behave foolishly and impudently. If someone fights with the fasting person or abuses him, he should tell the disturber twice, "I am fasting."

Fasting is an expiation of sins and a fulfillment of the spiritual factors that exists in the Holy month of Ramadan, the month in which the Holy Koran was sent down as a guide for mankind so that they could see the signs of clear guidance and be able to judge between right and wrong. Ramadan is a month of personal sacrifice and a striving to be nearer to God. To all those who fast, Mabruk Ramadan and May God accept your fasting!

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Sports

Maradona retiring from soccer

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Is Diego Maradona's soccer career over?

"I've had enough. I'm tired of struggling. I'm retiring for good," the Argentine star, faced with a minimum six-month and maximum two-year international suspension for cocaine use, was quoted as saying in Wednesday's editions of the Milan newspaper *Corriere Della Sera*.

Maradona, the 30-year-old captain of Napoli of the Italian League and the Argentine national team, gave a brief interview Tuesday during a flight from Rome to Buenos Aires.

"Now I want to enjoy life. I want to enjoy my daughters," Maradona was quoted as saying.

Maradona left Italy as the disciplinary commission of the Italian League prepared to rule on his case. Italian League officials found traces of cocaine in his urine after Napoli's game against Bari on March 17.

Maradona and his business manager Marco Franchi have hinted — without offering proof — that the incident somehow is motivated by Argentina's victory over Italy in last year's World Cup semifinal and Maradona's desire to break his contract with Napoli.

"I'm certain that the clouds will be dispelled soon," Maradona said in a statement distributed in Rome Tuesday by the Italian

News Agency (ANSA). "I sincerely hope to return to soccer with a clean image which in vain someone is trying to alter."

After eluding reporters and photographers at Ezeiza International Airport, Maradona told them tersely at his parents' house, "enough was said on this issue in Italy. I have nothing to add."

There, he celebrated his daughter Dalma's fourth birthday. A TV camera caught him booting a tennis ball soccer-style against a wall and bouncing it off his head.

The Italian League's 11-judge disciplinary commission is set to rule Saturday on the length of Maradona's suspension. The suspension automatically will be extended worldwide by the Federal International Football Association or FIFA, soccer's governing body.

"We don't think we have to go into action on a big scale because of this case," FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter said in Zurich, Switzerland. "The reasons behind it probably have little to do with sports. If everything one reads is confirmed, it is a somewhat tragic case for him personally — and as a role model in soccer. But he hasn't been that for a while, because of his general behaviour."

Maradona's lawyer, Enzo Maria Stinscalchi, said he expects

the minimum penalty for Maradona because cocaine can't be considered performance-enhancing if taken several hours before a game.

According to the experts who tested Maradona's urine samples, he possibly took cocaine 18 to 30 hours before the Napoli-Barri match.

"We will not appeal the sentence if Maradona is given the minimum penalty," Stinscalchi was quoted as saying in Wednesday's editions of Milan's sports daily *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

Saturday's decision by the disciplinary commission can be appealed by Maradona's lawyer with the Federal Council, which would give a final sentence by mid-April.

Argentine sports commentators have wondered whether Maradona could return after a long absence. He has a chronic back problem, a damaged left ankle and a tendency to put on weight.

"It is precisely soccer that is hurt the most," said Abilio D'Almeida of Brazil, a member of FIFA's Executive Committee. "People not connected with the sport will think that this is common, that it happens all the time. "And it's worse because it involves a player of international renown. If he were a second- or third-rate player, no one would pay any attention."

"He has been the best soccer player in the world for 10 years. He can't end his career this way," said Vujadin Boskov, the Yugoslav coach of Italian League leader Sampdoria of Genoa.

Argentine fans remain loyal to the player they've idolized since he moved up to the national team at 15. But the government of President Carlos Menem, who made Maradona his "sports ambassador" last year, has not rallied to his defense.

The head of Argentina's anti-drug programme, Alberto Lestel, said in an interview broadcast by Radio Rivadavia that Maradona should resign for failing to set "an example... for the youths of this country and the world."

In recent months, Maradona has been beset by controversy. He has refused to practice and play for Napoli, been questioned by police investigating drug trafficking and prostitution or being named in a paternity suit.

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The fall from grace has been steep. He led Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title and was named the tournament's most valuable player. He led Napoli to its first league title in 60 years in 1987 and did it again last season. Then he captained the Argentine national team that lost last summer's World Cup final 1-0 to West Germany.

Although Capriati won in straight sets, she had to battle from behind in the first.

After 18 minutes, Capriati trailed 4-1. She fell back 5-2 before rattling off five straight games to take the set. She had an easier time in the second set.

"At 5-2 of course you think 'on my gosh, I might lose this set.' But really you can't think that way," Capriati said. "You have to be positive and stay in there fighting so you can come back."

Capriati took the tennis world by storm a year ago when she turned professional.

"This year they're (other players) going to be trying to beat me even more," she said. "I did pretty well and they want to beat me just like they want to beat all the top players."

Sanchez Vicario also is playing in her first tournament in a month and only her third of the year. The 1989 French Open winner

spent the last month practicing and running. She also went skiing for the first time.

"The break helped me," she said. "My mind is on the court and I think I played pretty well. I hope I can continue like this."

"I would like to have had tougher matches early," said Sabatini. "I knew her (Heavy-Wild's) game pretty much and that's why I won so easily."

Singles play in the opening round of the \$500,000 Family Circle Magazine Cup was overshadowed Monday by a doubles match that teamed Gabriela Sabatini and Jennifer Capriati.

The Argentine and American, both ranked in top 10 in the world and playing as a doubles team for only the second time, eliminated Canadian Helen Klekis and Bulgarian Katerina Maleeva 6-1, 6-1. The winners were unseeded while Klekis and Maleeva were seeded no. 6.

Navratilova leads seeds into 3rd round

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina (AP) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova, playing in her first competition in a month, conceded she was rusty during a 6-2, 7-5 victory over Amanda Coetzer of South Africa in the Family Circle Tennis Tournament.

"I was rushing and I was more worried about where to hit the serve rather than thinking about my tempo," Navratilova said. "Once I slowed everything down I was better."

"I hadn't played in a month and the jitters always show up in the serve. I was struggling but I was holding."

Navratilova, the defending champion who has 154 career victories, led a sweep by seeded players on the green clay in the \$500,000 event at the Sea Pines Racquet Club.

Second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina cruised to a 6-0,

6-0 victory over American Linda Harvey-Wild in a match which lasted only 47 minutes.

Among the other seeds advancing were no. 3 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, who posted a 6-2, 6-3 win over Argentine Bettina Fulco, and no. 4 Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, who eliminated German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch 6-1, 6-2.

No. 6 seed Jenofer Capriati survived an early scare but the 15-year-old came back to defeat fellow American Audra Keller 7-5, 6-1.

Navratilova struggled with her serve early, facing break point in every game of the first set. But Coetzer broke service only once.

Coetzer was up 4-3 in the second set when Navratilova held serve at love. She broke Coetzer in the next game to take the lead. Coetzer broke back in the 10th game before Navratilova won the last two games and the match.

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Kaiserslautern extends lead at top of Bundesliga

BONN (R) — A hat-trick by Bruno Labbadia helped Kaiserslautern open up a two-point lead at the top of the German Bundesliga first division when they hammered troubled hosts Nuremberg 4-1.

Labbadia put them two ahead with goals in the seventh and 25th minutes before Nuremberg's forward Joerg Dittmar pulled one back for the home side 10 minutes before the interval.

The visitors brought on Bjarne Goldbeck in the 69th minute and just two minutes later he scored Kaiserslautern's third goal. Labbadia added his third 15 minutes later to leave Nuremberg still struggling second from last in the league.

Kaiserslautern's championship hopes were aided when former leaders Bayern Munich went down at home to the only goal of the match to Fortuna Duesseldorf.

Werder Bremen took over second place with a 1-1 away draw against Borussia Dortmund.

Meanwhile, a leading politician has called for a massive investment to rebuild crumbling East German soccer stadiums and

fight hooliganism.

"Only then can attractive matches take place in the eastern part of the country," Ferdi Tilmann, chairman of the German parliament's Sports Committee, wrote in the Christian Democratic Party's magazine Union.

He said a portion of the five billion marks (\$2.9 billion) in federal financial aid earmarked to communities in the former east Germany should be spent on soccer stadiums.

The second leg was called off in the 78th minute as riot police used a water cannon to clear fans from the front of the terraces.

Community-run east met German Football Association or UEFA safety standards.

Meanwhile, officials of Dynamo Dresden, the last east German champions, Tuesday accepted a two-year ban from European competition imposed after crowd trouble during their European Cup quarter-final against Red Star Belgrade last month.

The second leg was called off in the 78th minute as riot police used a water cannon to clear fans from the front of the terraces.

Yesterday's cartoon: ALL RIGHT, TEAM, THIS IS OUR FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON... SO LET'S HEAR SOME CHATTER OUT THERE! WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY? JUST WAIT 'TIL NEXT YEAR!!

With Omar Sharif & Tamara Hirsch
© 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Andre Agassi

Agassi, Sampras win in Orlando tournament

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Top-seeded Andre Agassi beat Brian Garrow 6-2, 6-4 and no. 4

Derrick Rostagni easily dismissed veteran Jimmy Connors 6-1, 6-2 in the Prudential Securities Classic Tennis Tournament.

In other first-round matches, second-seeded Pete Sampras needed only 53 minutes to dismiss Brad Pearce 6-2, 6-2 and defending champion Brad Gilbert came back from a sluggish start to defeat Chile's Pedro Rebollo 2-6, 6-1, 6-1 in the \$225,000 event.

Agassi, 20, dominated Garrow by alternating lobs and powerful ground strokes. He said his opponent's size and style dictated the strategy.

"So much depends on the opponent you're playing," said Agassi, who won the tournament in 1989. "He's a little shorter than a lot of guys who play the net, and when you're that short you have to get a lot closer to the net so the lob is really effective."

Connors, 39, attempting to come back after a wrist injury,

spent the last month practicing and running. She also went skiing for the first time.

"The break helped me," she said. "My mind is on the court and I think I played pretty well. I hope I can continue like this."

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY APRIL 4, 1991 Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 4-5, 1991

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GENERAL TENDENCIES: Mercury goes retrograde today but you are even more determined to get things done through your own cleverness and intelligence which is fine so stop meddling with everyone you know.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

You have every sort of personal desire to do exactly what you please but the use of magnetism and poise brings you the best possible results.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

This is your time to make sure that you can avoid that rut that a highly temperamental person is trying to stir up so keep cool and calm.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Friends seem to be all mixed up but its best you do not try to use your fine logical mind to straighten them as they have their own ideas.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

This is your day to follow whatever laws and regulations that apply to you and stop trying to get to feel sorry for you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

You now find that you have all kinds of new ideas that seem to get you out from under some present tension but nevertheless you need more study of them.

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1991

Profits of Credit Suisse fall by third

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Credit Suisse, Switzerland's third-largest commercial bank, has posted a 31 per cent drop group net profit in 1990.

Net profit fell to million Swiss francs (\$399 million) last year from 783 million francs (\$580 million) in 1989, the bank said.

Consequently, Credit Suisse said it would propose cutting its dividend on 1990 earnings. It didn't specify how much.

The bank attributed the drop in net profit to a sharp decline in earnings from securities trading.

Credit Suisse Chairman Robert Jeker described the decline as exceptional, and forecast that 1991 earnings would return to the "good levels we achieved in 1989."

Cash flow of Credit Suisse, a unit of C.S. Holding was down 20 per cent last year at 1.18 billion francs (\$1.09 billion).

Atari may build computers in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S.-based Atari Corp. plans to invest \$150 million to make personal computers and electronic games in Israel, if the government invests in producing components, the industry ministry said Tuesday.

"It is a breakthrough in foreign investment," ministry director-general Zvi Koren told Israel radio.

But he said the Atari proposal depended on the establishment of factories to make parts for the Atari products, such as printed circuit boards and software, and serve other computer and electronic firms.

Such a support network would cost \$75 to \$100 million, the ministry said. Koren said the cabinet could discuss the investment proposal as soon as next week.

The government is not giving

more money. It is giving guarantees for loans. If the industry is successful, then it will not cost the government anything. In the event the industry fails, the government will share the losses," he

Recession eats at Fortune 500 corporations

NEW YORK (AP) — The recession dogged the U.S. biggest companies last year, but General Motors Corp. (G.M.) stayed no. 1 despite \$2 billion in losses, Fortune magazine said in its annual list of 500 top corporations.

A competing ranking by Forbes magazine of what it calls the "most powerful" American companies ignored G.M. entirely because the automaker didn't make any money in 1990.

The weakened economy was the dominant theme in the rankings. Fortune said half of the 50 largest industrial companies on its list lost money or earned less. Overall, Fortune 500 profits fell 11.7 per cent, even though sales rose 6.1 per cent.

G.M. with over \$126 billion in revenues, retained the top spot despite a 0.8 per cent drop in sales. Ford Motor Co. slipped to no. 3 and Chrysler Corp. tumbled three spots to no. 11, reflecting a sour performance by the auto industry.

Fortune bases its list on total sales and rates only industrial companies. The magazine also compiles separate rankings of the companies by profits, assets, stockholder equity and other financial indicators.

Exxon Corp. rose to second place in sales on the Fortune list. Completing the top 10 were International Business Machines Corp. (IBM), Mobil Corp., General Electric Co., Philip Morris Cos., Texaco Inc., Dupont and Chevron Corp.

Forbes also ranks 500 companies by sales, profits, assets and market value. To distinguish itself from Fortune, it does a composite ranking across all categories to determine the "super 50." On the composite list, General Electric Co. replaced G.M. as Forbes' "most powerful" com-

bate not risen since peaking at \$255.0 billion last October.

Benz said he was concerned not only that "big-ticket" durable orders fell, but also that orders for non-durable goods including apparel and household goods declined.

"There doesn't seem to be any demand by businesses or consumers at this point," he said.

Orders for durable goods — big-ticket items ranging from cars to computers expected to last more than three years — slipped 0.3 per cent to \$117.5 billion. It was the third decline in the last four months, including a 2.0 per cent drop in January.

When aircraft orders are ex-

cluded from non-defence capital goods, the decline was an even more severe 3.9 per cent," said Marilyn Schaja, an economist with Donaldson, Lufkin-and-Jenrette Securities Corp. in New York.

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World News

Russian leader suffers string of defeats in parliament

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian Federation leader Boris Yeltsin suffered a setback in his campaign against central Kremlin rule Wednesday when Communist deputies voted down his call for swift direct elections to an executive presidency.

The vote was one of a series of defeats Wednesday for Yeltsin, who would almost certainly win any election for the Russian presidency and thereby strengthen his hold against rival Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Congress of People's Deputies, the republic's highest legislature, rejected by a clear margin Yeltsin's request that the lower-sitting parliament should arrange for the holding of elections at the end of May or beginning of June.

The population of Russia, by far the most powerful of the 15 Soviet republics, voted in favour of a directly elected Russian president at a referendum last month. But hardliners and many more moderate Communists fear this could unleash a fierce power struggle between Yeltsin and Gorbachev.

Both men were elected to their present positions by their respective parliaments.

The congress, debating a resolution on last week's report by Yeltsin, adopted a vaguer proposal for the lower parliament to work on legislation for an executive presidency. But it set no

timescale.

The congress, which elected Yeltsin its leader by only a narrow margin 10 months ago and now proves only a tenuous power base, also rejected Yeltsin's call in a speech last week for a Soviet government of national confidence to save the country from economic and political chaos.

And it dismissed Yeltsin's plan, mooted last November at talks with Gorbachev, for a round-table body involving liberal and some Communist groups.

Hardline Communists called the congress meeting, which began Thursday, aiming to block Yeltsin's efforts to wrest control from Soviet authorities or even to remove him as leader.

But Russian Communist Party leader Ivan Polozkov, while maintaining his opposition to Yeltsin, acknowledged Tuesday that the time was "not right" for a change in the Russian leadership.

Meanwhile, violence flared in the aftermath of Georgia's resounding independence vote, and one prominent politician said Tuesday he feared the Kremlin would send troops into the fractious southern republic.

Ethnic fighting broke out shortly the polls closed Sunday in one section of the fractious southern republic, where Georgians voted 98 per cent in favour of restoring their pre-World War I independence status.

On Monday, the national

legislature authorised President Mikhail Gorbachev to impose a state of emergency and deploy troops in an area of the republic by ethnic violence.

Gorbachev had not issued the order by Tuesday evening, and his spokesman said he would have no public comment on the referendum, which the Kremlin says was unconstitutional.

"We treat it as a sociological study," presidential spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko told a regular news briefing.

But Vakhtang Khmaladze, deputy chairman of Georgia's Electoral Commission, said Tuesday he feared the legislature's action was a response to the independent vote.

"This is a direct result of an exceptionally active participation of the population in the referendum and of the support by the overwhelming part of the population to the restoration of Georgian independence," he told the independent Infogeorgia News Agency.

He also is deputy chairman of the Democratic Choice for Georgia, a nationalist political organisation.

Khmaladze said a bomb hit a house and killed one man, an ethnic Georgian, when ethnic fighting erupted an hour after the polls closed in the town of Selo Nikozi, which borders the troubled South Ossetia and the regional capital, Tskhinvali.

Gorbachev had proposed "immediate measures be taken to stop the bloodshed and actions by gunmen, to thwart their intentions to capture and destroy villages and to begin negotiations."

Muslim South Ossetians and Christian Georgians has already claimed more than 50 lives.

Slightly more than 90 per cent of Georgia's 3.4 million eligible voters participated in the referendum, Infogeorgia reported. Of those, 3,266,285 people or 98 per cent, voted for independence, it said.

The Georgian legislature took issue Tuesday with a resolution by Russian lawmakers last week demanding they recognise South Ossetia's claims to independence from Georgia.

The resolution is a "rude interference" in Georgia's internal affairs, TASS reported.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported Tuesday that Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who has yet to comment publicly on the referendum results, has sent a letter to Gorbachev saying unspecified "resolute measures" have been taken to stop the bloodshed in South Ossetia.

The letter, sent Monday, was a response to a telegram sent by Gorbachev last week following a sharp increase in violence in South Ossetia and the regional capital, Tskhinvali.

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Fighting between the mainly

Novelist Graham Greene dies

VEVEY, Switzerland (R) — British novelist Graham Greene died Wednesday aged 86, his daughter Caroline Bourget told Reuters.

Bourget said Greene died of a blood disease at 11:35 a.m. (0935 GMT) in a hospital in the Lake Geneva city of Vevey.

"He's had a good life, you know," she tearfully told Reuters by telephone.

She declined to speak further and said the date and arrangements for the funeral had not yet been fixed.

Greene, widely regarded as one of the century's leading writers, wrote *The Power And The Glory*, *Our Man In Havana*, *The Third Man* and dozens of other novels.

He left his longtime home in Antibes, in the south of France, last year to seek medical treatment in Switzerland.

Born of middle-class parents in the town of Berkhamsted, northwest of London, Greene was still at school when he began to travel along unconventional paths.

His experiences included alcohol, drugs, psychoanalysis, a flirtation with communism and the British secret service.

All these, tempered by the Roman Catholicism he adopted while at Oxford University, provided material for some 60 literary works.

Greene began work as a sub-editor on the Times of London in 1926, leaving to become a full-time writer on the strength of a relatively successful first novel, *The Man Within*.

Eight more works before World War II enhanced a growing reputation and in 1940 he brought out *The Power And The Glory*.

Greene had more screen adaptations than any other modern author and was translated into 27 languages with sales exceeding 20 million.

Born on Oct. 2, 1904, Greene was the fourth of six children of a headmaster. His younger brother Hugh, who died in February 1987, was for 10 years director-general of the British Broadcasting Corporation.

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